PAPA BRICK;

OR,

WHAT IS DEATH?

AN

English, French, and Italian Romance.

BEING THE SUITE OF BRICK BOLDING.

FROM THE FRENCH OF

PIGAULT LEBRUN.

La sagesse du pilote évite Charybde ; les écueils de Scylla la font échouer.

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THE AUTHOR

AND

THE BOOKSELLER;

OR

A DIALOGUE BY WAY OF PREFACE.

THE Bookseller.—Sir, I have read your work.

The Author.—And what is your opinion of it?

The Bookseller.—I dare not give you my opinion.

The Author.—In one word, does it suit you?

The Bookseller.—It does, and it does not.

The Author.—I am at a loss to understand your meaning.

The Bookseller.—It suits me, because the success of the two first volumes of *Brick Bolding* may be supposed to ensure the success of this; and it does not suit me, because the public have never shewn themselves the advocates of the continuation of such works.

The Author.—The public have reason on their side:—the beginning of such Romances is, in general, the best; but this Novel ought only be considered as the continuation of *Brick Bolding*, by those who

who are fond of pursuing the same subject.

The Bookseller.—How so?

The Author.—None of the events that occur in the one story, are alluded to in the present.

The Bookseller.—Then why did you not change your title?

The Author.—Because I wished to spare myself the trouble of writing half a volume, by way of bringing the public acquainted with the origin of my hero.

The Bookseller.—What was that to you?—Novels are now bought by the sheet; and he who can fill the most pages, is the best paid.

The Author.—Then you ought

to be satisfied with me, for having deviated from the general plan.

The Bookseller.—I shall, if your work has a good sale.

The Author.—Then you mean to print it?

The Bookseller.—I do. We are like the managers of a theatre, which is merely supported by a succession of new pieces.

The Author.—Or of old ones new vamped up.

The Bookseller.—Take care you are not condemning yourself.

The Author.—The critics will soon exercise their wit at my expence. I am merely endeavouring to spare them the trouble.

The

The Bookseller.--You have enemies then?

The Author.—Doubtless; who has not? but I am fortunately unacquainted with mine. Critics generally conceal their names.

The Bookseller.—You have not only critics to fear——

The Author.—I wish a wise, enlightened man would give me advice; or that a severe, but just friend would give me his opinion of my works; or that an impartial critic would point out my errors; and I would endeavour to convince them of my gratitude for their kindness: but I cannot bear to be cut down by a blunt scythe, or to be judged, unheard.

The Bookseller.—All your judges are not equally severe. I have read the preface of a pamphlet, entitled the *Burying Ground of the Magdalen*, in which, comparing *Brick Bolding* with *My Uncle Thomas*, they treat the former very politely, and have shewn no pity for *My Uncle.*

The Author.—I never either saw or conversed with the author of the *Burying Ground of the Magdalen.* I thank him for the praises he has bestowed upon *Brick*; but I blame him for having done so at the expence of *My Uncle Thomas*; since *My Uncle Thomas* is by no means inferior to the other productions of that author. It bears, like the *Shrovetide Child* and

The Barons of Felsheim, those marks of originality which distinguish Pigault; and, what is still more in its favour, is, its having been translated into English—an honour which seldom falls to the share of French Novels; though the worst productions of that nation seldom escape the active pens of our translators.

The Bookseller.—But let us return to your work. The sentiments——

The Author.—Are moral.

The Bookseller.—The style——

The Author.—Is simple, very simple; it even betrays great imperfection and great negligence; but I did not wish to write an

epic poem. A Novel ought to be wrote hastily; the imagination must be followed up, or it will cool.—A writer should never look behind him.

The Bookseller.—Well, at all events, I will run the risk of printing your work.

The Author.—Very well. I shall meanwhile reflect upon some other plan.

The Bookseller.—Let us each put up our prayers; you, that your readers may be candid, while I pray that they may be numerous.

BRICK BOLDING

TO

HIS READERS.

THE Editor had certainly foreseen what was to happen when he inserted, at the end of my last work, what I now think it necessary to repeat.

"There are people whom misfortune constantly pursues. When they expect to enjoy repose, they are frequently obliged to give way to

to the torrent which draws them on. To judge from the character of our hero, we are fearful he will not be long permitted to remain tranquil;—should we prove true prophets, we will endeavour to satisfy the curiosity of those who have already felt interested in his misfortunes."

Yes, destiny had other misfortunes in store for me. I only wonder how I have borne up against them. In my youth I have frequently exclaimed—"What is life?" and a hundred times in my old age, considering the termination of my existence as a desirable event, during acute sorrows,

I have repeated—" What then is death?"

Dear readers, the same actors will no longer appear upon the stage. My wife lost her father the first year after our marriage; the good Hermit Anastasio soon followed M. de Seneval to the grave. Adele is a mother. You left us at Buonamonte, a little Castle situated upon the borders of the Gulf of Venice; and it is at Buonamonte I shall again take up my story.

PAPA BRICK.

CHAP. I.

AFTER spending fifteen years in so agreeable a situation as Buona-monte, with a wife like Adele, it may be supposed that I had almost forgotten the misfortunes which had assailed me in the early part of my life; since what had I now to desire? my wife having blessed me with two charming children.

Charles

Charles gave early promise of the happiest disposition ; and his sister, whom I had called Stella, and whom I idolized, seemed to make it her sole endeavour to make me forget the past. I enjoyed the most perfect repose, and the exact degree of happiness to which I had so long aspired. I admired the virtues of my wife, and proposed her as a model to my daughter. I was my son's sole instructor ; and the manner in which he received my lessons, convinced me they were not lost upon him.

At times I amused myself with my gun, but more frequently in fishing, since all my family participated in the latter amusement.

Charles

Charles helped me to draw the nets, while Stella flung the smaller fish back into the river, which formed one of the boundaries of my park, and lost itself, about a mile from our habitation, in the Gulf of Venice.

When the weather was calm, it was as smooth as looking-glass; it was then we embarked in our little vessel, to enjoy our favourite amusement, since it became dangerous during those winds, which may be deemed storms in the Adriatic. Of course I never exposed my family to their violence; but prudence is of little avail in opposition to destiny: no human foresight can preserve us from the decrees of fate.

fate. In endeavouring to avoid one danger, we frequently fall into another. The wisdom of the pilot may enable us to steer clear of Charybdis; but we are possibly, in consequence of his precautions, swallowed up by the whirlpool of Scylla.

One day (Oh my dear reader! pity me, since I have not yet reached the termination of my misfortunes), Stella being indisposed, my wife wished her to take the air. A fishing party was proposed, and in a short time we were upon the river. The current carried us rapidly forward, long before we had conceived ourselves to be in any danger.

The heavens were serene; and the warmth of the sun, far from incommoding us, was truly reviving. It was the end of February, which must account for the latter sensation; and the near approach of spring appeared to be sensibly felt by the whole party.

But our little bark was still carried forward by the increasing current, till the Adriatic sea opened to my view. When too late, I was convinced of our imprudence. Not, however, chusing to communicate my fears to the party, I seized the oars, and turning the head of the boat, tried to make for home. But my terror increased, upon

upon finding the wind was as contrary to our progress as the current; though we were not sensible of its violence while it was in our backs. It was due north, and soon blew up some very thick clouds, which were speedily formed by the vapours arising from the multitude of lakes that are to be met with in Switzerland and in Italy.

Adele remarked my terror; but, either through prudence or fear, remained silent. I redoubled my efforts; Charles seconded me. Stella, who began to be alarmed sought refuge in her mother's arms. Thus the terror became general. The more we endeavoured to stem the

the current with our oars, the less progress we seemed to make. I called for help, but who could hear me? The fishermen who lived on either side of the river, having doubtless foreseen the storm, had safely moored their barks. No one was to be seen. The increasing clouds met, and broke over our heads; the roaring of the thunder was easily distinguished from the roaring of the sea, whose waves were gaping to swallow us up. Dumb, deprived in a manner of all sensation, we waited in silent despair for the destruction of our boat, and consequently the loss of our lives. Too soon were our worst fears

realized;

realized; our boat struck upon a rock, and went to pieces.

Adele, Charles, and Stella disappeared from before my eyes; but I, (Oh, why was I preserved, since the Fates had condemned me to mourn the loss of Stella—the interesting Stella—my unfortunate daughter!) miraculously escaped from the fury of the perfidious elements. Having recovered my senses, the first words I pronounced, were the names of those more dear to me than life.

"They still live," said a sailor, who was endeavouring to recover me.

"Don't you deceive me, charitable man!"

"You shall see them."

The

The next moment I was embraced by Adele and Charles.—My eyes wandered in search of Stella, whom I next called, but received no answer. Dreadful silence!—I once more lost my senses. Some spirits, which the good sailor administered to me, once more recalled me to life. I could not feel grateful for his attention, since I merely recovered my recollection, to regret the irreparable loss I had sustained.

"Alas! it is but too true," said Adele, endeavouring to restrain her tears, in hopes of preventing me from giving way to mine; "Heaven has thought fit to deprive us of her!"

"But

"But you have still a son," cried Charles, flinging himself into my arms, "who will never leave you."

"My wife! my son!—Gracious God, did you then only make me a father to render me a prey to the greatest despair?"

"My friend," said Adele, assuming an appearance of tranquillity. I soon guessed the motive that actuated her, while she said—"In all the various trials of life, you have displayed the greatest courage; never under the pressure of the greatest misfortunes, having permitted yourself to murmur against the decrees of Providence. Endeavour, therefore, to bear your present loss with resignation, since the

the daughter you so bitterly regret, may one day be restored to your arms."

The admirable resignation my wife displayed, though her grief certainly equalled mine, produced the effect she expected; since I grew calm, and sought to make myself acquainted with our generous preservers.

The rock upon which our boat had split, was about two hundred feet in circumference; a light-house rose in the middle, which was inhabited by three men, placed there to take care of the fire, which was to be lit every night, for the preservation of the vessels which sailed that way.

I en-

I endeavoured to express my gratitude to those brave fellows; but, deprived as I was of every thing, I could only promise them a future recompence. They made very light of the services they had rendered us, assuring me they were fully gratified in having been able to preserve our lives. Such were the generosity and delicacy of these men, who evidently were of the lowest class; but I have ever remembered both their discourse and their features: and I rejoice at having been able to make them some amends for their humanity.

The sea continuing very rough, we were obliged to remain two whole days

days with them. They endeavoured to make every thing as comfortable as possible; but it may be supposed what Adele suffered, reduced to partake of their black bread, and obliged to repose upon the boards; while the continual roaring of the waves reminded her of the loss of her daughter.

I could only think of Stella; and if I perceived any thing floating upon the water, I felt ready to rush into the sea, in the firm persuasion of being able to find my daughter, and of restoring her to her mother.

At last the weather grew more serene, and two of our liberators

undertook to row us to Buonamonte in their boat. The sight of this house where Stella had so agreeably occupied my leisure, increased my affliction; but a flood of tears relieved my bursting heart, while I pressed my son in my arms.

The two sailors, having landed us, wished to return immediately; but we forced them to follow us to the Castle, for I was resolved to fulfil every promise I had made them. —"Take this gold, these jewels," said I, "take them, my brave fellows; you have saved my wife—my son! Iam indebted to you for every thing I possess!"

What reflections might I not now make? But I have promised

to

to be brief. I shall therefore not dwell upon my sorrow, but shall rapidly pass over a crowd of events.

The loss of my daughter redoubled my affection for my son; and as he seemed to wish to go into the army, I purchased him a commission. War at this time ravaged Italy. Charles was obliged to march with his regiment; and during the first engagement in which he took a part, he saved the life of his Colonel, and was raised to the command of a company. Such indeed was his bravery, that his exploits were even mentioned at Vienna; and the Emperor, in return for his zeal, gave him the com-

mand of a regiment, to which he added a pension adequate to his rank.

What glory for my son! Thus do Sovereigns make great men, by properly distributing their favours; and Charles resolved to prove himself deserving of those his Emperor had conferred upon him.

During this time the persecutions the Austrian troops exercised upon the inhabitants of the valley of Walladino, induced the peasants, to the number of ten thousand, to revolt, in hopes of thus getting rid of them. They required a Chief to lead them on upon this expedition; well aware that their inexperience would render their

courage

courage useless, and that without order, without discipline, and without a General, they should merely expose themselves to a general massacre.—Can it be believed they chose me to march at their head!" Having heard of my former exploits, which had doubtless been greatly exaggerated, they considered me as an extraordinary man; in short, they were sure, they told me, they should succeed under my command, and be enabled effectually to rid the country of the Imperial soldiers, of whom they complained.

In vain did I represent to this troop of vagabonds, that neither my age nor my health permitted me to become their commander.

They considered my refusal as an excess of modesty, and were by no means inclined to relinquish their purpose.

"But recollect, my friends, you will be treated as rebels."

"Can we suffer more than what we are obliged to suffer every day? Is not our property continually exposed to pillage?"

"Such are the misfortunes attendant upon war. Your losses will be repaid you."

"Are not our wives and daughters daily insulted?

"Carry your complaints to their commanding officers, and they will punish the culprits."

"Are not our old men treated with disrespect and inhumanity? Are not our fields laid waste, while the fruit of our labours becomes the prey of a thousand subaltern agents? Are not these grievances much more distressing than even the certainty of dying in defence of our rights?—We are resolved to perish, or get rid of the soldiers of whom we complain. Become our commander: we promise you obedience; our confidence and our courage will ensure our success."

I might, it may be said, have told them that I had a son in the Imperial service; it would there-

fore be violating the laws of Nature to draw my sword in their cause: but the delirium that reigned among them, would have prevented them from listening to so plausible an excuse, and might have rendered me the victim of their blind fury. I therefore promised to devote myself to their cause, merely requiring time to reflect upon the methods requisite to be pursued to ensure the success of our arms; when, in fact, I had it in contemplation to make use of this interval, to escape with all my valuables, thus abandoning my house at Buonamonte, till the restoration of peace should enable me to return thither with safety.

The

The rebels retired apparently satisfied with my condescension; leaving me very anxious to evade the honour they intended me.

I hastened to prepare every thing for my flight. The whole night was spent in making the necessary arrangements; and I began to flatter myself that I should escape from the tyranny which a rebellious populace usually exercises under the name of *freedom*, and that I should thus avoid the necessity of committing a thousand crimes, under the sanction of that much-abused name— *liberty*.

Every thing was ready for our departure, when a confused murmur met my ear; and I was soon

able to distinguish the sound of rude military music, the neighing of horses, and the clashing of swords.

"All is over!" said I. "I must fight—and with whom? With rebels."

My wife advised me to abandon every thing, and to seek my safety in flight through the gate, leading from the garden. I would have followed her advice; but it was no longer at my option, since more than six thousand peasants had surrounded my house, and all eyes were fixed upon me. I was therefore obliged to assume an air of fortitude. My confusion they took for courage, and my surprise appeared in their eyes indignation. A sword was put into my hands; and

and a horse, ready saddled and caparisoned, was standing at my door. I instantly mounted, and was immediately surrounded by officers, who bore more resemblance to a gang of robbers, than to brave warriors anxious to be led to victory.

Taken like a rat in a trap, I was obliged to go forward; and I must even acknowledge, to my shame, that ambition once more took possession of my heart. I recalled to memory my superb campaign in the burning plains of Africa; in a word, I had the weakness to fancy myself a hero, and to imagine I was following the road to glory.

My first care was to establish order and discipline among my troops. I made Colonels and Captains; and having chosen my Aides-de-camp, we only thought of taking an advantageous position where we might wait in security the approach of the enemy. Three regiments soon presented themselves, requiring, as usual, to be billetted among the peasantry, who were absolutely resolved to refuse them admission. In consequence, I sent a herald to their Colonel, ordering them to retire as soon as possible, as I could not be answerable for what might prove the consequence of their resisting my command, since twenty thousand

men

men (a good General always exaggerates the number of his troops) were ready to fall upon them; and that though they were subject to my orders, I was convinced I should not be able to put a check upon their impetuosity.

It may be supposed how my polite message was received by three regiments well provided with cannon and ammunition, who conceived they should soon be able to reduce a troop of disorderly and inexperienced rebels, at least so thought their commander; who, having hung up my herald upon the nearest tree, gave orders to the soldiers to advance, and bear down all before them. The Imperial

standards were therefore immediately unfurled; the drums beat to arms, the matches were lit, and every preparation was made to ensure our destruction.

My spies having already given me notice of the polite manner in which my herald had been treated, I resolved to be amply revenged for the insult offered to my representative;. therefore hastened to meet the enemy:—and each party was so much in earnest when they came to close quarters, that two thousand of my men remained upon the field of battle, and the three Austrian regiments were cut to pieces; not more than five of them being made prisoners, among

among whom was the Colonel, who had hanged my herald.

"I might, Sir," said I, "treat you in the same manner; but I could not reconcile my conscience to strangling you in cold blood." —I therefore set him at liberty; and having given him a guide, desired him to make good his retreat before he became known to the rebels.

The battle over, I surveyed the field of action, ordered the dead to be buried, and the wounded to be taken care of; and found that my victory had rendered me master of six pieces of cannon, three thousand firelocks, eight-and-twenty barrels of powder, and a great

quantity

quantity of other stores, of which my army was in much want.

Not a moment was to be lost, since I easily foresaw that the instant the news of this defeat reached the Emperor, he would send, not a handful of soldiers, but an army to reduce us to submission. I therefore reviewed my troops, distributed rewards to those who had displayed the greatest bravery; and, having surrounded several villages, I forced the inhabitants to join our party: and thus, by promises or threats, I greatly increased the number of my forces, since in less than twelve days, I could with truth boast of being

at

at the head of twenty thousand men.

My success gave great uneasiness, it may be supposed, at the Cabinet of Vienna; and fifteen regiments, under the orders of General Lichtenchtein, were sent to reduce us to obedience.

The peasants of Walladino had named me the *Intrepid*; and, under that name, a price was put upon my head. Thus did I become a Chief of rebels—I, who wished to have ended my life in peace, in the bosom of my family; yet to reduce me, an army was thought necessary, and the Aulic Council promised twenty thousand ducats

to

to whoever should bring me to Vienna, dead or alive. Yet I can swear that I had been forced against my will to become a rebel. This even you can vouch in my favour, kind reader; since you know how I was constrained, almost in my own defence, to take up arms; and even now had I been at liberty—— But no; warlike ensigns fluttered in the air—fresh armies were advancing towards us, preceded by the thunder of their cannon.

"Take care of yourselves, soldiers!—the enemies are in sight!"

Once more, therefore, I am obliged to give orders, and to animate my warriors by my gestures and my voice.

voice. The balls again whistled round me, and many of my companions soon bit the dust.

Less fortunate than before, our enemies were this time victorious. All my wise manœuvres were disconcerted; all my batteries were overthrown; five thousand peasants were left upon the field of battle; fifteen villages were burned; and all the others were obliged to submit to such terms as their conquerors chose to impose upon them.

I fell into the hands of the enemy, or more properly speaking, I surrendered to them. My despairing soldiers thought themselves betrayed; and, under the mistaken notion that I had purposely led them on

to slaughter, they resolved to revenge themselves upon me for their defeat.

To escape the effects of their blind fury, I presented my sword to General Lichtenchtein, who had the cruelty, after having ordered me to be chained hand and foot, to throw me into a dungeon. This sudden change in my situation soon deprived me of my boasted strength of mind; in vain I endeavoured to call philosophy to my assistance. I still felt the weight of my chains, and all the horrors of my destiny; since I was ignorant of the fate of Adele, who might, for what I knew, be exposed to the most dreadful calamities. I saw

her,

her, in imagination, proscribed—obliged to seek her safety in flight, and possibly deprived of every necessary resource. Sometimes I feared that the indignant soldiers, from whom I had so narrowly escaped, had vented their rage upon my unfortunate wife. Every moment I thought I heard her last cries, till, in a delirium of despair, I screamed aloud, endeavouring to protect her in my arms, which my chains prevented me from extending; and the damp walls with which I was surrounded, soon restored me to a sense of my situaation.

Three days and three nights, which, according to my calculation were

were three centuries, passed away without my having taken any refreshment. During this time I only saw a miserable jailer, who possessing the usual degree of feeling with which such people abound, answered all my questions with — "Peace! hold your tongue!"

A violent fever seized me, which the pestilential air I breathed, greatly increased. The dampness of my dungeon had given me the rheumatism, which effectually prevented me from moving from the bed of rotten straw, upon which I should have infallibly terminated my sorrowful existence; when I was dragged out of this tomb for the living, and placed in an iron cage, preparatory

to my being conveyed to Vienna. A detachment of cavalry surrounded me. Fifty prisoners were in my suite, but did not participate in the honours of my iron cage, which convinced me I was considered as a person of no small consequence. I could have wished, I acknowledge, to have been treated with less distinction; though the commander of my guards endeavoured, as far as laid in his power, to soften the rigour of my destiny.

As there was no prison in the first village we stopped at, we were all shut up in a Church. The sun being at its height, I complained of excessive heat, when a young girl, who

seemed

seemed to have assumed the appearance of my guardian angel, offered me a basket of fruit.

"Dear child," said I, bursting into tears, "you are——"

Excess of gratitude prevented me from saying any more. She, besides, resembled my lost Stella; but having rather recovered from my first emotion, I was preparing to take an apple out of her basket.

"Take them all, my good Sir; you can divide them with your companions."

I did as she desired; and the doors of the Church being shut upon us, I shared her friendly present among my fellow-prisoners

who,

who, gratified by my generosity, were no longer so unjust as to accuse me of being accessary to their misfortunes.

CHAP. II.

IT has been seen in the preceding chapter, how easily a mistaken populace are reduced to obedience, if proper measures are pursued; since these very men who were ready to accuse me of having occasioned their defeat, were now all anxiety to alleviate my misfortunes.

Their

Their kind behaviour rendered me for a time regardless of my captivity, though I presumed I should lose my head the moment I reached Vienna.

"General," said one of them to me, "look at me well. I am not unlike you in many respects; and I believe we are nearly of the same age. What then?—To-morrow perhaps you will perish upon the scaffold. The idea is humiliating; therefore endeavour to make your escape."

"Good Heavens, how?"

"Don't let us lose any time in vain deliberation. You have been our Chief, and are consequently doomed to death; therefore fling

 off

off your clothes, and take mine: no one here will betray us.—Will you, my friends?"

"No, never!" they all swore.

In vain I refused to acquiesce in their plan, assuring them that life was become a burthen to me. Paolo—this was the name of the brave prisoner—Paolo undressed me himself; and having again dressed me in his clothes, requested I would hide myself in one of the corners of the Church. I did as he desired, waiting in silence the end of this extraordinary adventure. I had placed myself in such a situation, that, from my retreat, I could observe every thing without being perceived.

At

At the expiration of an hour, the commander of my guard appeared, who immediately ordered four of his soldiers to replace Paolo, whom they took for me, in the iron cage. I shed a torrent of tears while they were leading this generous man out; and felt humbled at having suffered him to ensure my safety, possibly at the expence of his own life. I was therefore very nearly betraying myself, for I wished to stop Paolo, and undeceive his guards;—the remembrance of Adele alone prevented me from giving way to this impulse; and in another moment Paolo disappeared.

The other prisoners were then ordered to walk forward, a corporal passing

 them

them in review, and counting them as they went out. I therefore perceived that I could not long escape the scrutiny of this Argus, and that I should expose myself to certain destruction, if I remained any longer concealed: in consequence I left my hiding-place, and joined the remaining soldiers. The corporal, finding the number complete, paid little attention to me; and I suffered my companions to precede me out of the Church.

At the moment I was following them, I recollected the young girl's basket, which I returned to fetch, meaning to restore it to her with thanks, should I be fortunate enough to see her.

By

By this time the prisoners who had preceded me out of the Church, had taken a considerable advance upon me, and having found the basket, I resolved to follow their steps; when having again reached the door of the Church, I perceived an Austrian soldier, to whom I said, without reflecting he was upon duty—

"My dear friend, do me the favour to give this basket to that young girl whom you can see from hence;" for I saw my benefactress at some distance; "and tell her that the man to whom she presented it full of fruit, still hopes that he shall be able to give

 her

her convincing proofs of his gratitude."

The soldier made me no answer.

"Won't you do me so small a favour?" said I, in an indignant tone.

"Go to the devil," said he, "and your basket! Don't you see I am upon duty?"

"Excuse me," said I; "I thought—I imagined——" when, in fact, I hardly knew what I thought, or what to say; but in some respects taking his advice, I walked slowly forward, and once out of his sight, I ran as hard as my legs could carry me to a neighbouring forest, where, fatigued and harass-

ed, I flung myself at full length upon the ground; when I was roused from the stupor into which I had fallen, by repeated shouts, which induced me to believe I was pursued. I therefore crawled in among the underwood, where I remained till the obscurity of the night enabled me to set my pursuers at defiance.

Still I dared not leave the wood, as the firelocks, which were repeatedly discharged in my hearing, sufficed to put me upon my guard. Too much fatigued, besides, to hope to travel any length of way, I remained quiet where I was, endeavouring to court that repose, of which I now stood so much in

need. Sleep soon came over me, and the sun was much above the horizon when I awoke to a renewed sense of my misery.—Hunger now attacked me; for I had taken but very little sustenance for the last five days. In vain, however, did I look round me in search of something to break my fast, when I heard the bleating of some lambs at no great distance, and in a few minutes the voice of a shepherdess, who was singing as she sat watching her flock. I made the best of my way towards the sound; and I leave the reader to judge how rejoiced I was in recognising my benefactress in the singer.

"Oh

"Oh Heavens!" said I, "do not my eyes deceive me?"

My exclamation alarmed her, and my appearance increased her terror; for my hair was in disorder, my beard very long, my dress shabby, and my countenance certainly not likely to prepossess her in my favour.

She retreated some steps, calling to her dog, who rushed between us, and would have probably done me a mischief, if she had not restrained his fury.

"Charming girl," said I, "don't you recollect me? What can you have to fear from the miserable prisoner, whose wants you yesterday so kindly supplied? Here is

the basket to which I am indebted for my life. But once more, my kind benefactress, I implore your compassion; for I am dying with fatigue and hunger!"

"How is it possible! Can it be you? How rejoiced I am you have been able to escape from those wicked soldiers, who treated you so cruelly! You are hungry! Here is my bread: take it—take it, poor man!"

I did not want much entreaty to devour it.

"Stop, there is a spring hard-by; some water will do you good;—remain where you are, and I will go in search of some;" and away she

she flew; but soon returned, bringing with her a pitcher of water. I could only kiss her hands in return, and thank the Divinity, whose precepts she so strictly obeyed.

Having thus expressed my gratitude both to Heaven and to her, I entered into conversation with Angella (the name of my benefactress), and learned that my evasion was already known to every one within ten leagues of the village, from whence I had escaped; that a minute description of my person was in every body's hands; and that a number of soldiers were scouring the country in every direction, who had orders to search every

every house which appeared likely to afford me a retreat.

Angella told me at the same time, that she had an aunt—an excellent woman, extremely charitable, and who would think it both a pleasure and a duty to afford me an asylum; advising me to wait the return of night in the wood, which was surrounded by soldiers, while she went to inform her aunt of our meeting, and to learn which way it was generally believed I had bent my steps.

From the time she left me till her return, I had full leisure for reflection; but I shall not detail my private thoughts to my readers.

At

At last I heard my little shepherdess singing the song with which I had been delighted in the morning. I advanced some steps to meet her; the moment she perceived me, she endeavoured to make me understand that she was the herald of good news; and I was still more gratified by perceiving the basket had received a fresh supply. Again I endeavoured to express my gratitude.

"Reserve your thanks," said she, "till you are once more at liberty; then I may indeed be inclined to listen to your fine speeches."

I did honour to the repast she brought me; when, having gathered up the fragments, she said—

"Now follow me. My aunt expects you, and says she knows where you may remain concealed, till the soldiers quit this part of the country."

"Amiable Angella, how much I feel obliged to both you and your aunt for thus interesting yourselves in the fate of a total stranger!"

"Oh, I told my aunt you were unfortunate; she did not ask me any more. But then I ought to tell you, that she reads the Bible every day; and let her gains be never so small, she divides them with those who are poorer than herself."

I could not forbear smiling at the simplicity of the beautiful Angella, though I felt very grateful

for

for the kind intentions of her aunt, whatever might be the motive that induced her thus to favour me. But the sun having been so long set, I readily followed my young guide, who led me in safety out of the wood.

I was giving way to the transports of my joy, and blessing my benefactress, when a gun, which was fired close to our ears, put a sudden stop to our mirth; and we seemed petrified, so great was our terror, till a man passed us with a hare in his hand, which he had just shot.

Prudence alone prevented both Angella and myself from giving way to our mirth at our absurd

fears.

fears. We, however, continued our walk.

Fortunately Marcellina's cottage stood in an isolated situation, at some distance from the village, in which a guard of soldiers were placed, who might have prevented me from reaching this secure asylum.

At last we arrived at the good old woman's, who having long been in expectation of us, had already prepared our little supper; and, without listening to what I wished to tell her, in return for the favours she had shewn me, she said—

"I know all you would say; and I hope we shall be able to prevent

prevent your falling into the hands of the soldiers, who are continually parading before my cottage; but they cannot do so for ever: and if four days elapse before they discover you, I think you will no longer be in any danger. So sit down to the table, and make a good supper; for they paid me a visit this morning, therefore you need not be under any apprehension of their returning to-night."

Nevertheless, I did not feel myself at ease, and the least noise increased my terror. I, however, sat down by the side of Angella (why was not Adele on the other side of me?), and tried to do honour to the repast, which was served so neatly, that a Prince need not

not have disdained to have partaken of it. Before we began, Marcellina drew her prayer-book from under the cushion of her arm-chair, and putting on her spectacles, she opened it, saying—

"My dear children, do not let us forget our duty towards God. Let us request the favour and the protection of Heaven."

"May our good prisoner escape in safety!" added her little niece; and I thus concluded—

"May it please God to restore my wife and son to my arms, and to afford me the means of displaying my gratitude towards those who now afford me an asylum!" • • •

Marcellina

Marcellina now sung a short psalm, and we began supper; after which, the old woman led me into the next room, and pointing to some clean straw, she desired me to endeavour to think myself in safety. I promised to do as she desired; and having wished her and little Angella a good night, I extended myself upon my humble couch.

Never did I sleep better; nor was I tormented with any of those frightful dreams which had of late attended my slumbers. Breakfast was waiting for me when I awoke.

"You are lazy," said the old woman, in a gay tone. "Do you know it is ten o'clock?"

"I never

"I never slept so well," said I, "though I may have had a better bed. But now, my good Marcellina, you must render me completely happy."

"How so?"

"Cannot you endeavour to dispatch a letter?—I wish to write to my wife. Would it be dangerous to send some one to Buonamonte?"

"Only write your letter; then we will see what can be done for you."

"Joanno shall carry it," said Angella.

"Joanno!" said I.

"You don't know who Joanno is."

"How should I? I never heard his name before."

"He

"He is my husband, that is to be!" said she, jumping while she spoke.

"Do hold your tongue," interrupted the old woman.

"Why so, dear Marcellina?" said I.

"They are so young," said she; "and then Joanno, though very honest and very industrious, has no money; and to begin housekeeping, some is necessary."

"True, true. However, I hope still to see Angella the wife of Joanno."

Angella jumped about while I was writing my letter, which I had hardly finished when the sound of

a shepherd's

a shepherd's pipe induced me to raise my head.

"It is Joanno!" said both aunt and niece at the same time.

The cottage-door was hastily opened while speaking, and Joanno entered; to whom, after the first short compliments had passed, Marcellina said—

"Joanno, you must do this worthy stranger a favour, as he means to give you both a delicate and an important commission."

"I shall feel myself exceedingly happy," replied Joanno, "if I can in any shape render myself useful to the gentleman; and you have a right, my dear Marcellina, to command my services."

This

This answer was not that of a fool, and I was immediately convinced he was worthy of Angella.

Having returned him my thanks for the friendly zeal he had expressed, I entered into several necessary details, relative to the commission I was going to give him; but had no sooner told him that I was Chief of the rebels, and that, having been made a prisoner, I had made shift to evade the vigilance of my guards, than he turned pale, while his countenance expressed the greatest uneasiness.

"Oh Marcellina!" said he, in a sorrowful accent, "what have you done?—We are all lost!"

 "Lost!

"Lost! What do I hear? Explain yourself, Joanno. Are these good people exposed to any particular danger upon my account? Speak! for I had rather die a thousand deaths, than occasion them any uneasiness!"

"No, no; now I reflect."

Joanno struck his forehead, as if a sudden and fortunate idea had come across him; and before I could enquire what he meant, he disappeared, leaving us in this unpleasant state of uncertainty. For a moment astonishment tied all our tongues; but having recovered my speech, I requested these hospitable females would suffer me to take my leave of them, expatiating

upon

upon the serious fears I now entertained for their safety: but they declared I should not leave them, till I could do so with safety, even locking the outside door. But all their efforts to detain me would have proved useless, if they had not, with tears in their eyes, entreated me, as I valued their peace of mind, to remain where I was.

Thus did several hours elapse, during which we had formed ten thousand conjectures respecting the projects of Joanno.

"He is an excellent young man," said Marcellina; "and therefore surely would not betray us."

"He is incapable of so doing," added Angella. "Joanno is——"

"Here he is!—here he is!" we all exclaimed at once.

"Here I am indeed!" cried Joanno; "and here is a passport for you, Sir," presenting me with a paper he held in his hand.

"A passport! Good Heavens! —How?—by what miracle?"

"I have no time to enter into details. You must set off this moment."

"But where or when shall I see you again?"

"We must leave all that to Providence."

"I shall make for France."

"Very well.—Write to us when you arrive there."

"Adieu,

"Adieu, my excellent friends! Dear Angella, good Joanno, kind Marcellina, words are inadequate to express my feelings towards you all!"—And away I ran, anxious to ensure the safety of those I had left behind me.

Before night I had reached a large town, the name of which I have forgot, which was full of soldiers in the Imperial service. My first care was to seek out an inn, without reflecting I had not wherewithal to pay for a glass of water. I entered the first I came to, and asked for a bed. The master of the house, taking me for a beggar, *politely* told me to be gone. Fired by

by his impertinence, I should certainly have knocked him down, if he had not set two large dogs upon me, who would probably have laid me low, if a young officer had not suddenly come to my assistance, who, seizing mine host by the collar, vowed he would be the immediate death of him, if he did not call off his dogs.

"Rascal!" cried he, "is it thus you receive the wearied traveller? Learn that rags often cover an honest man, and that indigence is always respectable. So quick!—A bed and a good room for this poor fellow, who appears exceedingly fatigued! Look to me for the payment, but do as I desire!"

"Ten

"Ten thousand pardons, Colonel!" said the innkeeper, calling off his dogs. "I would lodge twenty beggars *gratis*, rather than offend you; but so many of these kind of people——"

I interrupted the insolent innkeeper, and then returned my thanks to the young officer, without daring to look at him; giving him to understand that I might yet have it in my power to convince him of my gratitude, since I had also a son in the service of his Imperial Majesty.

"A son, Sir, say you?"

"Yes, of your age—that is, about twenty, who would have acted as you have done. Indeed you

you have strongly reminded me of my dear Charles."

"Charles!"

"Is the name of my son."

"Great God! My father!"

"What do I hear?" I exclaimed.

"What, don't you recollect me, Sir?"

"Indeed I did not. Those scars which you have received——"

"May have altered my countenance, but my heart is still the same. But can it be you, my father, in such a situation?"

"Believe me, Charles, our surprise at this meeting is mutual."

"Have you then still any doubts of my being your son? Are not my

my tears convincing proofs of our affinity?"

"Pardon me—my son, pardon me; this unexpected meeting has quite bewildered me."

"Here is your picture, my father, which you yourself gave me, and which I have always worn next to my heart; but I can suppose four years have greatly altered my appearance. I should have wrote to you oftener, but I have long been promising myself the pleasure of surprising you at Buonamonte; for which purpose, I requested the Emperor to suffer my regiment to join those that were sent to reduce the rebels of Walladino to obedience; and I now guess that you

have not escaped their fury. Your house has probably been pillaged; but I trust my mother still lives, in which case your misfortunes will soon be repaired.

"The rebels have submitted. Their Chief, who was taken prisoner during the last engagement, has, for the present, made his escape; but he is so well known, that he must soon fall into our hands, and his punishment will be so severe, that it will deter any other madman from risking his life in so rash a cause."

I leave the reader to judge what my feelings were during this speech.

"Charles,"

"Charles," said I, with well-counterfeited tranquillity, "is not the name of this man known at Vienna?—who was, after all, more unfortunate than culp le."

"The rebels named him, *the Intrepid*; his family name, I believe, has not yet transpired. But you seem to pity him, Sir!—Were you ever acquainted with him? Could you inform us where we are likely to meet with him?—since surely you would not wish to screen a wretch, who took up arms in such a cause; and you may depend upon the Emperor amply rewarding any one who can give him any intelligence respecting so great a criminal."

 "At

"At present, Charles, I am too fatigued to enter into any explanation; to-morrow you shall hear all I have to say."

It would be useless to observe that the innkeeper, having heard the Colonel address me as his father, was all anxiety to execute the orders he had received; though, it may be supposed, his astonishment kept pace with his wishes to make me forget his former rude treatment of me.

Before supper, Charles took me into his own room, and made me change my rags for some of his clothes; telling me he wished he could devote the whole evening solely to me: but having already

already invited several officers to sup with him, he could not very well avoid receiving them.

"One among them," said he, "was taken by the rebels. The manner in which he escaped, might be deemed almost miraculous; the story is really curious, but he shall tell it you himself."

I wished to have been excused from appearing among his company, for fear of being recognised for the celebrated Intrepid, or being guilty of some imprudence; but the host having come to inform us supper was upon the table, Charles would not listen to my excuses, but leading me into the next room, said

to a group of officers who were waiting his leisure—

"Allow me gentlemen, to introduce my father to your notice."

Each bowed respectfully, and seemed to consider me as a superior being.

"You must know, gentlemen," continued Charles, "that the war has rendered it unsafe to travel unattended, even upon the great roads. For instance—my father was not only robbed, but stripped this morning, in his way hither; and our kind host, taking him for a beggar, would have delivered him up to the fury of his dogs, if I had not fortunately run to his assistance."

This

This story prevented many explanations, and I was greatly pitied; while they proposed sending ten horse soldiers in pursuit of the rogues. I observed that the darkness of the night would render any researches they might make, useless; but, in reply, was assured that there was more than suspicions entertained respecting the retreat of certain banditti, whom they ought to seize the present opportunity of securing.

"I will undertake to guide the detachment," added the cursed innkeeper, chusing to mix in the conversation, "as I am well assured that they are concealed in a sub-

terranean habitation, the entrance to which is in the cottage of an old woman, named Marcellina, about five leagues from hence."

"Marcellina!—It is impossible!" I exclaimed.

"I beg your pardon, Sir!" replied the innkeeper; "but they even say——"

"Hold your tongue," said I, "and do your work!—We do not require your advice."

He held his tongue; but the officers declared I was too indulgent, too humane; and the detachment set out in spite of all I could say to the contrary.

The more I wished to reflect upon

this

this event, the more confused my ideas became. I could not conciliate what was said of Marcellina, with her generous conduct towards me: though the facility with which Joanno had procured me a passport, rendered me sufficiently unjust to suspect there might be some truth in the report in circulation. Indeed I began to suspect my passport might have proved of little avail.—Alas! I had been so often taken in by mankind, that mistrust had taken place of my blind confidence in their zeal.

Good people, I shall for ever reproach myself for having, for a

moment,

moment, supposed you were insincere; for what a return for your generosity towards me, were my suspicions respecting your good faith!

CHAP.

CHAP. III.

SO many different reflections came across me, that I was no longer able to mix in the conversation. My absence of mind did not escape unnoticed; and every one present endeavoured to raise my spirits.

Charles

Charles, who persuaded himself that the fiction he had detailed, had perfectly explained to his friends the strange manner in which I had arrived at ———, by no means foresaw what might prove the consequence of his well-told story. But the thread of my ideas was soon effectually broken, and in a way very little calculated to dissipate my uneasiness.

Upon the host's announcing the arrival of Major Dierkmann—

"You have made it late," said Colonel Bolding; "I had almost given you up, Major; though I had promised this gentleman the repetition of the astonishing adventure that you met with, during the

the first battle in the valley of Walladino."

While speaking, Charles seized my hand, to present me to the Major.—Had a thunderbolt fallen between us, we could neither of us have appeared more surprised.

" 'Tis he!" cried the Major, looking me full in the face.

" 'Tis he!" I replied, equally regarding the Major.

Profound silence succeeded our exclamations. The Major read in my eyes the fear and terror with which I was assailed; while I endeavoured to read in his, the impression this unexpected meeting had made upon him.

I pre-

I presume the reader has already guessed that Major Dierkmann was the Austrian officer who had hung my herald, and had afterwards fallen into my hands; and to whom I had given life and liberty, even facilitating his escape from the fury of the rebels.

Possibly we should have remained dumb for some time longer, if Charles had not forced us to speak, by enquiring what had so greatly surprised us, adding—

"Are you already acquainted with my father, Major?"

"Your father!"

"Yes, my son," said I, keeping my eyes fixed upon the Major; "yes, we are——"

"Friends!"

"Friends!" cried the Major, flinging himself into my arms.

"Ah!" said I, giving free loose to my tears, which were those of gratitude, "generous hearts are sure to understand each other."

"Another happy meeting," cried one of the young officers, "which we must celebrate in bumpers;" and we once more sat down to table: but the cloth had scarcely been removed, ere a variety of strange noises for a moment suspended the mirth of our company, and induced us to enquire from whence they proceeded; when we learned that two robbers had just been seized, in whose possession a

quantity of money, and other effects of value had been found. They were instantly brought in, in hopes they might be some of those who had stripped me, and that I should thus be able to recover what it was supposed I had lost.

I could scarcely forbear laughing at this singular adventure, especially when the young men, falling at my feet, presented me with several rouleaus of gold, requesting me to speak in their behalf, since they had abstained from laying violent hands upon me; swearing that they would abandon a trade for which they were not born, and to which various unfortunate events had obliged

obliged them to have recourse; and I must say that their shame and visible repentance induced me to believe that they were not hardened criminals.

Charles seized the money, resolving to return it to the real owners; and that he might discover who they were, he desired the young men to detail minutely how and where they had come into possession of so large a sum. In consequence, he took them into his own room, requiring me alone to be present during their confession; when having told them that their lives depended upon their sincerity, the eldest of the two thus began.

" We are natives of Bella-Dona, a village about twenty miles from hence; which, like many more, is, at present, merely a heap of ruins. My name is Michael, and my brother is called Zanti. Our father was a farmer, who was both respected and beloved by all his neighbours;—unfortunately he joined the rebels in the late contest, and, no doubt, became the victim of his bravery, which would have been praiseworthy, had it been exerted in defence of his Prince. We were at a distance from home when this civil war broke out; but we no sooner learned that our father was in danger, than we

quitted the town where we resided, having been apprenticed to a master blacksmith, and flew to Bella-Dona, where, alas! we arrived too late, since the unfortunate Paolo——"

"Paolo!" I exclaimed.

"Such was my father's name," continued Michael; "and he was worthy of a better fate; but, alas! he was no more.—His house was razed to the ground, and his stacks of hay and corn were reduced to ashes! Judge what was our despair and our situation!—for we were without friends, without relations, and deprived of every resource. We endeavoured to implore the pity of some strangers;

but, unfortunately, we met with only cold and insensible hearts. What could we do?—We resolved at last to enter as privates in the service of the Duke of Parma; but even to do that, we must reach some garrison-town, and we were thirty miles' distance from the nearest to Bella-Dona. Having, however, sold every thing we possessed, we began our journey with the best intentions in the world.

"It remains to be told, how we were tempted to become robbers.—Yesterday morning we met several young men, who, accosting us very familiarly, enquired where we were going. We readily told them.

them. They informed us they were going the same way, and thus our acquaintance commenced; though I must acknowledge I felt no great relish for their society, for their obscene language gave me a very unfavourable opinion of their morals. But, understanding they were also going to inlist under the Duke of Parma's banners, and conceiving they would be our future comrades, we did not think it right to appear fastidious.

"Having walked nearly three miles, our new companions complained of thirst, and proposed our resting ourselves, for a short time, in a miserable alehouse we had in sight. We made no objection; and having

forced us to drink more than we were accustomed to, they also requested us to pay the reckoning; and we left the house too tipsy to know what we were about, though we were able to insult every quiet traveller whom chance threw in our way. In a short time, we wished again to refresh ourselves, but not one amongst us possessed a farthing; when the one who had first proposed our entering the alehouse in the morning, said —'My friends, we should be great fools if we did not endeavour to correct the injustice of that sorry jade, Fortune. Let us attack the first carriage we meet with; we shall

shall surely obtain money enough to enable us to reach the place of our destination; but remember, we must spill no blood. Gold and jewels we may consider as lawful prizes; but no murders must we commit.'

"This abominable advice was generally applauded; and the speaker was unanimously proclaimed our commander in chief, when we heard the noise of a carriage behind us, and, upon turning round, perceived a postchaise at no great distance. Instantly concealing ourselves behind the thick hedge which bordered the road, we waited in silence for the approach of the travellers; and

the carriage having reached our hiding-place, we all made our appearance, and forced the postillion to drive out of the road, proceeding to make ourselves masters of the baggage.

"A lady about forty, and an elderly man-servant were in the carriage. I took particular notice of the lady, who displayed the greatest presence of mind. The vagabond whom we had styled our commander, told her, in a rough voice, meaning to frighten her, that resistance was useless; therefore, if she wished to save her life, she must instantly deliver up all the money and jewels she had about her.

'Gentle-

‘ Gentlemen,’ said she, without appearing disconcerted, ‘ I am too much in your power, to allow me to refuse to do as you desire. Search the carriage, and take what best suits your purpose.’

‘ Now that is speaking like a reasonable woman,’ cried our execrable Chief; ‘ and I promise you, in return, you shall not be insulted.’

“ I must here make an humiliating acknowledgment, but I have sworn to speak the truth.”

“ Upon which condition, you know I promised you your life,” cried Charles.

“ You can have no reason to doubt my sincerty, Sir; for what I am

I am going to say, will criminate myself; as I must acknowledge that I was well aware of what I was about, when I assisted in stopping the carriage, and yet I dared not retreat. Surely nothing can justify so culpable a weakness; but I was fearful my vile companions would have killed me, had they thought I had it in contemplation to have run away from them. I therefore mechanically obeyed their leader, readily receiving the gold with which they entrusted me.

"But while they were overturning every thing within the carriage, a letter fell at my feet. I picked it up, meaning to restore it to the lady,

lady, when, unthinkingly, I read the direction."

"Do you remember the name of the person to whom it was directed?"

"I have not forgotten it. It was addressed to *Mrs. Bolding, at the Castle of Buonamonte.*"

"Heavens!—What is it you say?"

"The exact truth, I would take my oath."

"Gracious Heavens!—Charles, it must have been your mother whom these wretches attacked!" (for I presumed this letter was the one I had sent her by Joanno, and supposed that she had, upon receipt of it, left Bounamonte, meaning to follow me to France)."

Charles, no less impatient than myself, desired Michael to finish his story, who thus continued.

"The monsters with whom we had thus associated ourselves, were not permitted to enjoy the fruits of their crimes; for while they were forcing the locks of the trunks, of which the lady could not or would not find the keys, the postillion having alighted, had, without being remarked by any of us, run to a farm at some distance, from whence he speedily returned at the head of twenty peasants, armed with forks, who would certainly have surrounded us, if their shouts had not induced my

infamous

infamous companions to seek their safety in flight; ordering me and my brother, whom they had loaded with the booty, to run before them. Having gained a neighbouring forest, Zanti and myself were, by some means, separated from the infernal band. But as the peasants did not lose sight of us, we were obliged to double upon them, and then to throw ourselves, at full-length, among the underwood. By this means we escaped being taken; as the peasants continued in pursuit of our comrades, whom they still had in view.

"We had scarcely escaped from this danger, ere we were assailed by

another; as I was seized with a fever, and my brother, overcome with fatigue and despair, lost his senses for some hours; but it was not till this morning that we were sensible of all the horrors of our situation. Indeed we should have considered the events of yesterday to have been a frightful dream, if we had not, upon waking, perceived this gold and these jewels to be in our possession, which we would readily have exchanged for a piece of bread, to appease the hunger which now tormented us. We passed the day in the forest without meeting with any thing to satisfy our craving appetites. The approach of night

night therefore induced us to quit our retreat; but the darkness which now prevailed, and which we had hoped would have ensured our safety, proved our destruction; for it prevented us from seeing the soldiers that were in wait for us: and we were seized and brought before you, gentlemen. The dread which I naturally entertained, and the colour of your coat"—(he addressed himself to me)—"all conspired to deceive me; for I took you for the servant who was with the lady in the postchaise: but being very soon sensible of my error, I have, in order to save my life, thrown myself upon your mercy."

" We are satisfied, young man," said I to Michael, "as you have given us some very important intelligence. We are acquainted with the lady who was attacked by your infamous companions; and if you wish to deserve our future favour, you will now faithfully second us in the researches it has become necessary to make after the unfortunate victim of your rapacity."

" Depend upon my doing my utmost to serve you. I will lead you to the farm where she doubtless passed the night; or should she have continued her journey, the peasants who came to her assistance, will certainly be able to tell us which way she went."

I ap-

I approved of the notion. We therefore gave immediate orders for horses to be ready at daybreak; contenting ourselves, for the present, with placing the two sons of Paolo under lock and key, after having ordered them various refreshments, desiring them to remain quiet, since prudence and their own security required our treating them with the appearance of severity.

Being now alone with my son, I told him I was going to put his courage to the trial; for that I meant to entrust him with a secret, upon which my life depended, and which I was fearful would prove the bane of his future happiness.

Charles

Charles turned pale; but soon resuming his usual intrepid countenance, he requested me to proceed, assuring me he would sacrifice even his life, if required, in my defence.

" Alas, my son!" said I, "you must indeed relinquish the rank you hold, and turn a deaf ear to the voice of glory, if you wish to accompany your father to some distant country, where a price has not yet been set upon his head: for I am at this moment a proscribed fugitive. Your mother, who has already, you find, been exposed to the insults of a troop of vagabonds, has doubtless been obliged to quit Buonamonte, where she could no longer reside in safety. Pity me, my

my son; but, believe me, I have been more unfortunate than culpable."

"I am convinced you have; therefore keep me no longer in suspense; for, believe me, I am ready to follow wherever you lead."

I now entered into those details with which the reader is already acquainted; thus explaining the reason of my astonishment when he presented me to Major Dierkmann; not forgetting to dwell upon the magnanimity of Paolo, the generosity of Angella, the humanity of Marcellina, and the zeal of Joanno.

"That excellent youth," I continued, "procured me a passport, which may enable me to reach France in safety. He also undertook to convey to my wife the letter which Michael doubtless picked up; therefore, during my greatest misfortunes, I have had the consolation to meet with generous and benevolent friends."

During my recital, Charles preserved a profound silence; and when I had ceased speaking, seizing both my hands, he bathed them with his tears, assuring me that I should still find him every thing I could wish and expect.

Major Dierkmann, uneasy at our long absence, joined us while he was

was speaking; and Charles, giving him the meeting, endeavoured to express the gratitude he felt for his recent behaviour towards me.

"Pray," said the Major, "which of us is the most indebted to the other?—Has not my life also been in your father's hands? Besides, Colonel, I acknowledge no enemies but in the field of battle—there it is necessary to do our duty; but he that is ungrateful, has no crime but one."

Cordially shaking my hand as he ceased speaking, and understanding what had so lately passed between me and my son, he proposed my retiring to a farm which he had in the Island of

Candia,

Candia, till matters could be so arranged, as to ensure me once more the liberty of residing wherever I chose to pitch my tent.

Major Dierkmann was a Grecian by birth. In his youth he had served in the Ottoman army; and having been taken prisoner by the Russians, in the seven years' war, he escaped from the fortress where he was detained, and made an offer of his services to the Emperor of Germany; in whose employ, having rose by his merit, he had attained the rank of Major. Indeed he was considered as an officer of the most enterprising genius, and capable of the most daring actions; for

which

which reason, he had been sent (but with too few men) against the peasants of Walladino, the issue of which contest has already been related: and Dierkmann having long been tired of fighting in a foreign service, wished to retire to his native country, and to exchange his sword for a ploughshare, as he longed to terminate his career under the shade of those trees which his father had planted upon his little inheritance. This he told me when I refused his generous offer, assuring me that he meant immediately to resign his commission in the Imperial service, as he was impatient to return

to

to the Island of Candia, where he trusted my health would soon be re-established, and that I should soon forget all my recent misfortunes; promising to assist me and Charles in our search after Adele, as he wished to watch over my safety, which he did not think absolutely ensured, while I remained among the Imperial army.

In return, my son and I promised to be guided solely by his advice; and he swore to preserve my life at the expence of his own. In this he was wrong, since even his prudence might not have been able to avert the impending danger which threatened me. Indeed I

seemed

seemed doomed to live in a perpetual state of alarm, often wishing to be able to say with Horace—

> Beatus ille qui, procùl negotiis,
> Ut prisca gens mortalium,
> Paterna rura bobus exercet suis,
> Solutus omni fœnore.

CHAP. IV.

IT may be remembered that the officious innkeeper had put himself at the head of the detachment which had been sent in pursuit of the pretended robbers, by whom my son had reported I had been attacked; and that he had mentioned the cottage of Marcellina

as

as affording them a refuge. What I had since learned from Michael, respecting my wife's departure from Buonamonte, had made me entirely forget the impudent inn-keeper, and the good Marcellina. Indeed so fully did Adele occupy my thoughts, that I never once reflected upon the disagreeable consequences which might result from the mistake or malice of a fool; when at the moment, our horses being ready, my son, the Major, and myself were preparing to depart, we perceived a crowd advancing towards us, among whom I easily distinguished the innocent Angella, with her hands tied behind

her, her hair in disorder, and bathed in tears.

Marcellina was on one side of her, whose hands were also tied, though she appeared much the least terrified of the two.

Transported with fury at this unexpected sight, I rushed among the crowd, and hastily untied the cords that bound them, conveying them into the house, resolving to protect them at every risk against the insults of the populace, who are always more ready to condemn than assert the innocence of people in their situation.

My change of dress prevented these good people from immediately recognising their benefactor. Angella,

gella, falling at my feet, requested me to have pity on her aunt. Charles, who had been surprised at my rash conduct, soon guessed my reasons for thus endangering my own safety, when he heard me pronounce the name of Angella; he therefore prudently dismissed all the bystanders, fearful that a single indiscreet word might betray our secret. The innkeeper alone seemed displeased at our clemency, declaring that Marcellina had acknowledged having concealed the Chief of the rebels, which was alone sufficient to bring her to the gallows.

Had I been of my son's age, he would, probably, have paid

pretty dearly for his speech; and I am not sure whether I should not have fallen upon him as it was, if, at the moment my son was requesting him to leave the management of this business to us, he had not been knocked down by a heavy cudgel, which laid him expiring at our feet.

The blow had been given him by a young man, who, out of breath, covered with sweat, and foaming with rage, now exclaimed—

"Where is Angella? What have they done with Angella?"

My readers, I presume, have guessed that this was no other than Joanno, who, not having been in time

time to prevent the seizure of Marcellina and Angella, had followed them, resolved to defend them at the expence of his life; and having reached the crowd which surrounded the inn, at the moment when the innkeeper was prophesying that Marcellina would be hanged, no longer master of his passion, he revenged himself as has already been related; and I with difficulty rescued him from the hands of the enraged and furious populace.

Happily, Major Dierkmann had had the presence of mind to send for a guard of soldiers, who soon forced the crowd to disperse; when, having raised the dying innkeeper, we shut all the doors of the

 house,

house, and Charles, the Major, and myself began to deliberate what was now to be done. I was resolved neither to abandon Marcellina, Joanno, nor Angella; nor was I less humanely inclined towards the sons of Paolo. It was therefore at last agreed that Charles and Michael should endeavour to discover the road Mrs. Bolding had taken, while I repaired with Marcellina, Angella, Joanno, and Zanti, to the little Republic of Lucca, where I might remain in safety till my son, my wife, and Major Dierkmann joined me.

We made choice of Lucca, because the Major was acquainted with a

rich

rich merchant who resided there, and to whom he meant to give me a letter of recommendation; besides, I might from thence sail, at a moment's warning, for the Island of Candia.

Our plan was well laid, but it was necessary to put it into immediate execution. In consequence, I assembled all those who were to accompany me, assuring them that I meant to provide for them in some way or other the moment we reached a place where we might suppose ourselves in safety.

Michael jumped for joy, declaring he would never again drink a drop of wine. Zanti merely requested to

be admitted into my service, promising to serve me with the utmost fidelity. Joanno, conscious of the danger he had incurred, for the innkeeper was supposed to be at his last gasp, readily agreed to follow me; and Angella would have followed him to the end of the world. Marcellina alone seemed to hesitate, as she was very partial to her cottage, and very much attached to her large arm-chair. But as I was in possession of a considerable sum, which had been taken, as related, from my wife, and Charles was what might be deemed rich, I readily promised to procure her as comfortable a habitation, near to which

which I might fix my own abode.— Making the innkeeper's wife, therefore, a handsome present, to console her for the loss of her husband, who, it was feared, would not survive his accident, we set off in a covered cart, from a house in which I had met with so many strange adventures, which I had entered in rags, and which I now left like the General of an army, whom chance had unexpectedly rendered victorious. Indeed, had I but have known where to find Adele, I should have considered myself as the happiest of men.

About twelve o'clock we reached a village upon the borders of the

Po, where, having taken some refreshments, we embarked in a large boat, meaning to go down that river; and the wind seconding our wishes, before sunset we were fifty miles from the place where we had embarked; and, by the light of the moon, we soon perceived the spires of Ferrara.

Having moored our bark in the port, and given our baggage to the porters, they conducted us to an inn in the first suburb, where every thing appeared so clean, and where we were received so politely, that I resolved to stay there till I heard from the Major and Charles. I therefore desired that the greatest

care

care might be taken of the women, while Joanno and Zanti united their endeavours to render me as comfortable as circumstances permitted.

Having wrote a few lines to Dierkmann, requesting he would give me the earliest intelligence respecting my son and my wife, I sat down to an excellent supper; and finding myself rather tired in consequence of my late voyage, and not having slept the night before, I went to bed. *Morpheus had just shed his poppies over my heavy eyelids;* or, to speak in the vulgar tongue, I had just fallen asleep, when a man roughly shook

me,

me, requiring to see my passport. Jumping upright in bed, not being prepared for this visit, after gaping as one often does during a sermon, and rubbing my eyes as Lazarus doubtless did when he came to life again, I placed under the spectacles of the black figure who had awoke me, the paper that Joanno had procured for me.

"That is enough," said the officer of justice, retiring while he spoke.

Recollecting that my travelling companions would probably undergo a similar examination, I followed this long-robed fellow, and came up with him just as he was

entering

entering the chamber of Marcellina. I therefore told him that these women were mere peasants, whom I was going to establish in a farm I had in the Island of Candia; and not having been aware of the necessity of the circumstance, I had neglected to provide them with passports.

"So much the worse," answered the man in office; "my orders are precise, and I dare not infringe them. They must, therefore, follow me to the Police Office."

"Then, Sir," said I, "you must also know that two young men, who are in my suite, are in the same predicament. I shall

therefore accompany them to the Magistrates, if you will do me the favour to order a carriage to be got ready to convey us thither."

One was soon at the door; and having reached the Police Office, our conductor led us into a large low damp room, lit by a single glimmering lamp, and which was merely furnished with a few benches and straw beds.

"Wait here," said he, very politely, "till you are sent for to appear before the Magistrate."

"But this is too bad, Sir," said I; "you have no right to——"

Before I could say any more, he had locked the door upon us, leaving

us

us in a state of stupefaction far more easy to be imagined than described.

I was in such a passion, that I should infallibly have torn his eyes out, had he remained near at hand; but as it would have been useless to vent my rage upon the benches, I thought it more prudent to preach patience to my companions, assuring them nothing very serious could befal them, and that we should soon leave this horrid prison in triumph; though I was not without uneasiness while endeavouring to dissipate their's: since each of us having something serious to fear, I was well

well aware that, should any circumstance respecting us transpire, we might not find it so easy a matter to get out of our cage; but as giving way to despair could answer no good end, I affected to laugh at what had befallen us, engaging my companions to follow my example.

"It is the wisest thing they can do," interrupted an unknown voice.

Our astonishment increased, when, in casting my eyes round the room, through the thick stinking smoke proceeding from the lamp, I discovered, in one of the corners of our prison, a man extended upon a dirty mattress.

"Oh,

"Oh! Oh! my friend!" said I. "What, were you also brought here for not having a passport?"

"Quite the contrary," said the stranger, raising himself upon his couch;—"I was brought here this morning, because I had one which could not be disputed."

CHAP.

CHAP. V.

"TRULY Ferrara is a pleasant town," said I, "since travellers can neither find safety nor protection within its walls."

"Ah, Sir!" said the prisoner, "if you intend to inhabit Ferrara or its environs, I hope you have not the misfortune to have a handsome wife."

"How

"How so?"

"Because if I had not had one, I should not have been here; and God knows when I shall be released!"

"You alarm me!—Would it be indiscreet to enquire——"

"Not at all, Sir; and as talking may help to pass away the time, I will tell you of what I stand accused, which will convince you that many honest people, except indeed they are very cautious, may be considered as guilty as myself.

THE SHORT STORY

OF

A little Receiver of the Contributions of the little Town of St. Georgino.

"My name is Ignatius Bonino. My father was a schoolmaster at Montebelle—a poor trade! He died of want—that might have been expected. Though he was an honest man, that was no great merit. Whether he was regretted or not, I can't tell you:—I only know he left two boys, of which I am the youngest. My brother, who was lazy, extravagant, and debauched,

ed, became a Priest—that was natural. He made his fortune, which is by no means uncommon; while I, who was from a child laborious, timid, and economical, have always found it a difficult matter to live. I wrote a fine hand, and was an excellent accountant—this was very praiseworthy. I understood Greek and Latin—that turned still less to my advantage; though I wished to be a preceptor to youth. At last I got a pupil—that was being lucky; he proved a dunce, and would learn nothing—that was unfortunate. I reprimanded him—which was acting like a fool; for I was in consequence turned off—that I might have expected.

I sought

"I sought to make my fortune elsewhere—which was no more than prudent. The Receiver of the contributions of the little Town of St. Georgino took me into his house, and lodged and fed me—which was being very humane; to be sure, I did all his work, which he found very convenient, when an apoplexy put an end to his existence.

"I was born under an unfortunate planet; but having solicited, I obtained his place, which consoled me for his loss. I was now as contented as the Bishop of Padua—that is saying a great deal. I was faithful and exact in my accounts—that was no more than

my duty; and, in time, I scratched together some money—that was very charming; and I fell in love with Florentine, my neighbour's daughter—that was my misfortune. She was pretty, it is true; but I had better have gone to the devil, than have married her; as we were still in the honeymoon when the Secretary of the Intendant of Ferrara came to my house, to make some enquiries respecting the taxes which were imposed upon our poor little town. I received him very politely; of course set the best my house afforded, before him: I could do no less. He saw my wife—there the shoe pinches! He thought her

charming—so did I; but he ran away with her, which was too bad.

"Being alone, I raved, and tore my hair—not without reason. Next I resolved to run after my wife—that was acting like a fool. I got a passport, which was necessary, and set off post-haste; but was much too late. I arrived here in a fury—which was acting very sillily. I made a great deal of noise—that was still worse.—Rogues are sure to understand each other—that is generally known; and orders were doubtless given—at least so I presume; for I was stopped, and my papers were asked for—that was according to law. I dis-

I displayed them—which was acting right; and I was sent to prison—which was shameful. And what will be the result of my adventure, I can't tell you."

I must acknowledge, notwithstanding the disagreeable predicament in which I found myself, it was with difficulty I could restrain my laughter during the recital of Ignatius Bonino; and as he asked my advice, I gave it him in as few words as possible.

"You must, first of all, endeavour to obtain your release—that you doubtless desire. You must

then request permission to return to St. Georgino, which will no doubt be granted to you. As for your wife, you love her—that is evident; but she certainly did not return you the compliment, since she set off with another man; therefore I advise you to forget her, which is the wisest thing you can do."

"You are in the right," said Bonino, "and I will endeavour to follow your advice," extending himself once more upon his mattress; and, in a few minutes, he began to snore so loud, he would have effectually prevented us from sleeping, had we been so inclined.

I will,

I will, therefore, leave my readers to judge how long the night appeared to us all; though I endeavoured to beguile the time by conversing with Joanno, of whom I enquired how he had been able to procure me a passport, which might have enabled me to have pursued my journey, without the risk of being stopped by the Imperial army.

"When I left you at Marcellina's," he replied, "I ran to the Bailiff of the district, and exclaimed, in an accent of terror—'You are a lost man, Sir! for it is reported that the Chief of the rebels is concealed in the next village; and that, far from delivering him into

into the hands of justice, you have granted him assistance and protection. It is even said you will be taken into custody upon suspicion, and then God knows what may befal you!' And, without allowing him time for reflection, I told him I saw but one method to ensure his own safety.

'What would you advise, my dear fellow?' he replied.

'That you should write immediately to the Aulic Council, to assure them that the famous Intrepid has never set his foot within your district, as you have been indefatigable in your endeavours to secure him. This done, give me

a pass-

a passport in due form and order, which I will send to the miserable wretch, whose retreat I am acquainted with. He will, of course, take to his heels, and his immediate flight may save your life.'

"The Bailiff was so alarmed, that, without asking any more questions, he wrote a passport of my dictating, in which your person was accurately described; and the first name that came into my head, I had substituted instead of your own, which he hastily put into my hands, assuring me he should never forget the zeal I had evinced upon this trying occasion."

This relation increased my esteem for Joanno, whose happiness I pro-

mised to promote to the utmost of my power.

About five o'clock in the morning, we were deprived of even the glimmering light our sepulchral lamp afforded; and we remained in profound obscurity till daybreak, continuing to complain of the Police Officers of Ferrara, when our neighbour, the Receiver, jumping up, exclaimed—

"I am resolved, my dear Sir, to write to Monsieur Loredo, who ought to be made acquainted with the conduct of his Secretary."

"Loredo!" said I.

"Yes, Sir; the Count de Loredo, the Intendant of Ferrara."

"The

"The Count de Loredo!" I repeated.—Those who have read my former adventures, will know why I was thus astonished.

"Yes, Sir," replied the Receiver. "What is there so surprising in that name?—I am told he is a very good man; and if I can only make sure of my letter reaching his hands——"

"You may depend upon its doing so," I replied; "though, upon reflection, I must be mistaken—Loredo must be dead: and certainly he is not returned to life again, to assume the post of Intendant of Ferrara. However, I will not decide upon this matter as yet,

 since

since it is possible.—At all events, my friend," said I, addressing Ignatius, "I shall possibly soon have the advantage of seeing the Intendant; and if he is the Count de Loredo, whom I once ranked among my best friends, depend upon my representing your case to him in the most favourable terms."

"Only let him punish his Secretary, and my b—— of a wife, and send me home to St. Georgino,—that is all I require."

He was still speaking, when our prison-door opened, and the man who had brought us there, once more made his appearance, whom I abused most

most charmingly, swearing he should pay dearly for having treated me so shamefully.

" Sir," said he, " it is not prudent to give way to passion, while you still remain in my power."

" But by what right, Sir, do you hold your boasted power? By whose authority did you disturb my repose, and oblige me and my suite to follow you to this dungeon?"

" Public safety, Sir."

" Public safety does not require that the innocent should be confounded with the guilty."

" How you talk, Sir! Do you know that at Ferrara——"

 " I know

"I know that neither at Ferrara, nor any where else, no one should be taken up on mere suspicion, and to gratify the avarice of subaltern agents, ever ready to liberate those who fall into their power, if they will but come up to their price."

This last accusation rendered him furious; so calling in the guards, he ordered me to be led to the Intendant's, where I was shewn into the audience-room, in which I cooled my heels for two hours before the great man made his appearance; but when he did take his seat, his very looks convinced me he would do me justice,

as he immediately kindly enquired why I had been arrested.

"Sir," said I, "before I answer you, will you permit me to ask you a question in my turn?"

"Certainly," he replied. "Pray do so without ceremony."

Judge, dear reader, of my feelings; for I was convinced that I was in company with the amiable Loredo, who had formerly exposed his life, to preserve me from the vengeance of his uncle, the Count Manfredino.

Loredo recollected me at the same moment; and lifting up his hands to Heaven, he then, to the great astonishment of the spectators,

tors, flung his arms round my neck, exclaiming—

"My old friend, are you still in the land of the living?"

"I ought to be much the most surprised," said I, "as I thought I saw you killed before my eyes."

Without replying, Loredo took me into his cabinet, where we remained *tête-à-tête* during the ensuing four hours; though he had given immediate orders for the liberation of Marcellina and the young people, to whom I wrote three lines, requesting they would wait my return at the inn where we had taken up our abode the night before.

I then

I then related to Lóredo every thing that had befallen me since our long separation; and learned from him, in return, that he was miraculously preserved from the fury of his uncle, whose fortune he had since inherited.

I had more than one reason to rejoice over our unexpected meeting; for Loredo immediately offered to establish Joanno in one of his best farms. I therefore hastened to communicate the agreeable intelligence to the young couple. Their transports could only be equalled by their gratitude; and as Marcellina could no longer

object

object to their union, it was agreed that they should be married the next day.

In the evening I presented the family to my friend; and the wedding over, he established the young couple in the farm he had promised them.

The next day I received a letter from Charles, who assured me that his mother had fallen into excellent hands after her accident; and that as soon as she should recover from a slight fit of illness which had assailed her, she proposed joining me in Candia, though I might expect Major Dierkmann in the

course

course of a few days at Ferrara, with whom he thought I had better proceed to Lucca, and from thence to Candia, whither he should conduct his mother as soon as her health permitted her to undertake so long a journey.

Still I was astonished at my wife's not writing, and fearful she was too ill to hold a pen, when a third letter was put into my hands, which contained only the five following lines.

"Suffer me, Sir, to remind you of your promise; for I am still a prisoner in the Police Office at Ferrara.

"IGNATIUS BONINO."

To my shame be it spoken, I had totally forgotten the poor Receiver. Resolved, however, to repair my fault, I instantly related the story he had told me; and the Count de Loredo, who laughed very heartily during my recital, promised me, when I had ceased speaking, that he would do the honest man ample justice.

It

It ought to have been observed, that he obliged me to take up my abode in his own house, whither Zanti had also removed; and though I found myself very comfortably situated, I waited with impatience for the arrival of Major Dierkmann.

CHAP.

CHAP. VI.

AFTER the steps I had taken in favour of Bonino, I naturally expected a visit of thanks from that original. Nor was I mistaken in my conjectures; for the next morning he entered my apartment, where, falling at my feet, he expressed his gratitude for my kind intercession in his favour, telling me

me that the Count Loredo, not contented with having released him, had also nominated him to succeed his late secretary, as a slight punishment for the latter's injustice towards him.

Thus then did the Receiver of St. Georgino become the secretary of the Intendant of Ferrara; and I have since learned that the Count has had every reason to be satisfied with his zeal. His wife was shut up in a Convent, where he allowed her a sufficient sum to keep life and soul together.

At the expiration of four days, Major Dierkmann arrived. I presented him to the Count de Loredo, who gave him a reception worthy an old warrior.

We

We resolved to leave Ferrara without delay. Not chusing to take leave in person of Marcellina and her interesting family, I wrote them the following letter.

"Forgive me, my dear friends, if I leave Ferrara without paying you another visit; for I do so out of regard to our joint feelings. Sooner or later, I hope we shall meet again. Meanwhile, I trust you will be happy; indeed your virtues bid fair to render you completely so.

"Joanno, continue to love Angella; she is worthy of you. Watch

Watch also over her who has hitherto been considered by her as a mother. Be a good father and a good husband, and respect the worthy Marcellina; for such conduct must ensure your prosperity.—These consoling ideas will comfort me in my exile; whither I shall also carry the recollection of your generous actions, which is sufficiently saying, that you never will be forgotten by

"BRICK BOLDING."

I joined to this letter a purse of two hundred ducats; and two hours

before

before I left Ferrara, I sent it off express to Joanno.

The third day after our departure, we reached the Republic of Lucca, where we alighted at Mr. Biocci's, a rich merchant, and a friend of Major Dierkmann's, who gave us a most flattering reception.

I might fill half a volume with the description of the town of Lucca; but I shall proceed, without stopping, to Candia.

We had an excellent passage; wind and weather were both in our favour; and our ship being an excellent sailer, escaped becoming the prey of several Algerines who chased us. At last we reached the

Island

island which has given birth to many great men, celebrated in ancient history.

This island, formerly so renowned, is now under the dominion of the Turks. While under the Venetian Government, it still displayed some remains of its ancient splendour; but the barbarity of the Mahometans has left the inhabitants merely their climate, which is sufficiently tempting, to induce many people to settle among them.

The first appearance of the Island of Candia is by no means in its favour. The rocks with which it is surrounded, renders the landing dangerous; and as you proceed up the island, the mud-built huts,

which disfigure the remains of the former splendid habitations, give you an idea of misery and desolation. But Nature has been so bountiful, that you forget the miserable habitations with which you are surrounded, while you admire the spontaneous growth of the orange and lemon-trees, which impregnate the air with their delicious odour, and the thousands of olive-trees which are seen bending under the weight of their nourishing fruit; and, farther on, you perceive hills covered with vines, from whence the famous Cyprus wines are produced.

Dierkmann's house was small, but convenient. The surrounding land

was well cultivated, and his steward seemed an honest man.

"Consider yourself entirely at home," said he, upon our arrival, "and give orders in consequence; and though I do not promise you luxuries, you shall be abundantly supplied with all the necessaries of life; nor shall excellent wine be wanting to crown our feasts."

Indeed I had every reason to be satisfied with his conduct towards me; for, to prevent me from giving way to reflection, he induced me to take a great deal of exercise, under pretence of shewing me some of the finest views the island afforded.

Two months elapsed without my receiving any letters from Italy. I communicated my apprehensions to Dierkmann, who generally contrived to turn the conversation to some other subject, till my melancholy increased to such a degree, that he began to apprehend I was going into a decline: he therefore insisted upon my consulting an old Priest, who was reckoned the best physician in the island; offering to accompany me to his retreat.

Curiosity, far more than any hope I entertained of finding benefit from his prescriptions, induced me to visit this descendant of Æsculapius. Early the next morning we set off for his habitation; and at the

the expiration of three hours, we reached his house, which stood at the foot of an enormous rock, by which it was completely concealed.

" Five-and-thirty years has the wise Hassanos inhabited this retreat," said Dierkmann; "and his skill in physic will ever be remembered in this island."

While he was speaking, I observed more than fifty people returning by another road, who each held a bottle of water, which they were obliged to fetch daily. This water was an universal remedy. Indeed its effects were miraculous in those complaints which the English name *the spleen*; and for this reason, people who are a prey

to vapours or to bile, being thus obliged to walk every day five leagues, have not time to give way to their melancholy, which frequently induces them to terminate their existence.

The confidence they had in the medicine, the pleasantness of the road, added to the exercise they were obliged to take, produced the many wonderful cures Hassanos was said to have performed.

Why at Paris do they talk of the waters of Barrages and of Bagnieres?—Why at London do they boast of those of Bath? Merely because the physicians of both London and Paris, like Hassanos, know of no better remedy.

As

As for me, as soon as I saw the Greek Priest, his venerable figure and pleasant countenance induced me to wish to be better acquainted with him. He led us into his study, and addressing me in Italian, requested to know what complaint I laboured under. Having told him that my illness originated solely in my apprehensions for my wife, he gaily acknowledged that his waters would be of no service to me.

"But come and see me often," said he; "and we may perhaps hit upon something more efficacious to dissipate the uneasiness of your mind."

He now led us into his eating-room, where, in the most friendly manner, he requested us to partake of his frugal repast. We readily consented.

Indeed Hassanos appeared to me a real patriarch. His large and white beard gave an appearance of majesty to his figure; but the sensibility which his eyes expressed, greatly softened the severity his countenance in general displayed. His voice gave a peculiar charm to his utterance; and when he pressed me to renew my visit, I readily promised: and he in return told me that he was well versed in astronomy, of which he would give me a proof during my next visit.

CHAP. VII.

I SHOULD possibly have forgotten Hassanos's promise to give me a peep into futurity, for as such I considered his hint respecting astronomy, if Major Dierkmann had not requested me to put his talents to the proof; and during our next visit, having mentioned my wishes to Hassanos, he began, as he said,

to consult the stars respecting my destiny; when, having looked over several books, and made several astronomical calculations, he said—

"Before I begin, you must promise me to bear with resignation whatever future evils there may be in store for you."

In vain I endeavoured to laugh at the assumed gravity of Hassanos. I felt my heart sink within me, and waited in silence for the promised predictions, when he thus began.

"You will soon learn the death of a person, for whom you have braved many dangers. A son, whom you tenderly love, will soon join

join you here; and his tender care will soften the excess of your grief. You are not doomed to end your life in Candia; yet I trust that, like Job, your latter end will be more blessed than the beginning of your life."

"Wise Hassanos," I coldly replied, "I thank you, since you have only confirmed those fears I have long been convinced, were not ill founded."

So saying, I left the room, with sorrow in my heart, and tears in my eyes; and having reached my friend Dierkmann's house, the first person I saw, was my son Charles in deep mourning.

"She is no more!" I exclaimed, as I fell at his feet in a swoon.

I was conveyed to bed, where I remained eight days, without giving the least sign of existence. At last I came to myself, and recognised Charles, Dierkmann, and Hassanos, who all conjured me to live for their sakes. I suffered them to say and do what they chose; and, thanks to their care, I soon recovered my health, and learned from Charles the sorrowful details that follow.—I give them to my readers in his own words.

"You had hardly left the inn where we met with so many strange adventures, ere, followed by Michael, I hastened to the place where

my mother had been stopped by him and his companions. Not having met with any body who could inform us what road she had afterwards taken, we resolved to seek out the farm, from which it was presumed the peasants had come, who had flown to her assistance, which we reached about nine o'clock in the morning. The house was spacious, and of a very handsome appearance. Having knocked at the door, a man, about sixty, opened it.

'Sir,' said I, 'can you give me any information respecting a lady who was yesterday attacked by a band of robbers, in yonder wood?'

'Yes, Sir,' he replied. 'At daybreak she pursued her journey, taking the road you have in sight;' pointing to the continuation of the one by which we had reached his house;—'and as your horses are good, I dare say you will overtake her, since she can't have proceeded far:' and without giving us time to reply, he shut the door in our faces.

"Surprised at this behaviour, I was undecided whether I should not knock again, to make some further enquiries, till Michael observing we were losing time, I clapped spurs to my horse, taking the road I presumed my mother

ther had gone; but I had not proceeded many yards, ere the most piercing screams, which seemed to proceed from the house we were quitting, struck my ear, and induced me to immediately rein in my horse.

'Michael,' said I, 'did not you hear something?'

'The most dreadful screams, Sir!' he replied. 'Indeed they have made my hair stand an end!'

'Let us listen again, Michael.'

'Let us listen, Sir.'

"We did so, but heard no more. This silence, far from removing my uneasiness, redoubled my fears, and a thousand afflicting ideas instantly rushed into my mind.

'Sir,' said Michael, who read in my eyes what was passing in my heart, 'I guess what your thoughts are; but it behoves us to act prudently, and I should not advise your returning into that house, without having taken every necessary precaution respecting your own safety.'

'You are in the right, Michael. Follow me.'

"Michael did as I desired; and we had proceeded about a mile, when a cart, which had been overturned, interrupted our passage, and obliged us to stop.

"We asked the person to whom the cart belonged, whether he had not met a postchaise.

'A post-

'A postchaise!' he replied; 'no, Sir. No such carriages take this road.'

'Where then will it lead us?'

'No where,' was the answer.

'How, no where?

'Why, no where, but into a great forest, where there is nothing but bears and robbers.'

'Are you then not afraid?'

'Of what?—The bears never leave the forest, and the robbers pay but little attention to such poor devils as myself!'

'Do you know to whom that farmhouse belongs, that may be seen from hence?'

'God forbid I should, if what is reported of the owners, be true! I believe

I believe one had better be benighted in the forest I just mentioned, than to take up one's abode under that roof. Only the other day——'

'Ah, my God! Well, what passed there the other day?'

'Why, a carriage stopped at the door, out of which alighted two men in masks, and a lady, who had a handkerchief ov r her mouth, to prevent her from screaming, and her hands were tied behind her back. I believe no one knows what has since become of her. As for me, I am going to dung that little field, which you may see to the right, and which enables me

to

to maintain a wife and five children.

'I always pass before that farm without raising my eyes, or appearing to suppose any thing more than common is going forwards within doors; by which means I have hitherto escaped being molested.'

'But is it possible that the magistrates——'

'A good joke! What justice can be obtained in war time, when people only think of getting their heads, arms, and legs broke? Oh, the rascals have a fine time of it!'

'Thank you, good man, for your advice; it may be of use to me.'

'Don't mention what I have been telling you, at all events.'

'No, no; be under no apprehensions,' said I, giving him some money, and turning my horse's head, resolving once more to try to gain admittance at the farm.

"I had two pistols in my holsters; Michael was equally well armed. I could not therefore have much to fear: the report of the labourer had excited my indignation, and induced me to form the most horrid suspicions.

'Gracious God!' said I to myself; 'possibly my mother has but escaped from a band of petty villains, to fall into the hands of robbers by profession! Possibly this

this house, the appearance of which is so well calculated to deceive travellers, is merely the receptacle of a band of assassins!'

'Well,' I exclaimed, 'Michael, have you sufficient courage to follow me?'

'To the end of the world, Sir! You know my life is in your hands.'

'Let us then conceal our arms, that we may not put those we wish to surprise, too much upon their guard; and let us endeavour to enter a house, where I am fearful many a foul murder has been committed. I am resolved to know the cause of those screams which so recently alarmed us. Possibly my mother! Oh Heavens! my

blood

blood boils at the bare surmise! Don't let us lose a moment!'

"While speaking, I knocked at the door. No one answered. I repeated my knock with no better success. Michael knocked—still no answer; nor did we hear any noise. I looked through a crevice in the door, and retreated with horror.

Michael, having looked in his turn, said, in a trembling voice—

"Oh Sir! I saw a man with his hands bathed in blood!'

"Again he looked, telling me what he saw.

'He is crossing the court!—Now he speaks to an old woman!—There they go!'

'But

'But what must we do, Michael, if they refuse to open the door to us?'

'Let us fasten our horses to the hedge, and try to get over the walls. Such an attempt will convince them that we don't fear them, and may obtain us a cheap victory.'

"Pleased to find his courage kept pace with mine, I had resolved to follow his advice; when, in walking round the walls, we found a little door open, through which we entered a large court. Still no one appeared; I therefore rang a bell, and scarcely had the sound reached my ears, ere I heard a whistle; and a little shep-

herd

herd making his appearance, enquired what we wanted with his master.

'We wish to see him,' said Michael.

"The boy led the way into the house; and what was our surprise, prejudiced as we were against the owners of the mansion, upon entering a saloon, to see on one side a large table, upon which was placed an excellent repast; and on the other, at least twenty people upon their knees, devoutly praying before an image of the Virgin, who were not deranged by our entrance. An old man, whom I recognised for the one who had spoken to me a short time before, requested us, by a sign,

to

to remain silent till the prayers were over.

" So unexpected a sight deranged all my ideas. I was afraid I had formed a rash judgment of a very respectable family; and Michael was so disconcerted, that, hardly knowing what he did, he kneeled down, and joined in their prayers; while I was convinced that the labourer had imposed upon us, and had had some motive, which I could not fathom, for endeavouring to prevent us from continuing our journey: still the screams I had heard, in spite of appearances, induced me to suspect he might have told me truth.

"When the prayers were over, the old man approached me, enquiring, in a polite and affectionate tone, to what circumstance he was indebted for the pleasure of seeing me again.

'Forgive my importunity,' said I; 'but not having perfectly understood the direction you so recently gave me, I followed the wrong road; and having discovered my mistake, I returned to make some further enquiries.'

'I should be tempted to rejoice at your mistake,' replied the master of the house (since such I discovered the old man to be), 'if it had not delayed your journey; and

and though I suppose you are anxious to rejoin the amiable stranger who left us this morning, I must recommend your taking some refreshment, while your horses are being fed.—Vivaldo,' he cried, turning to a servant who stood in the door-way, 'have you taken care of these gentlemen's horses?'

'Yes, Sir—I have been giving them a feed of corn.'

'Then, positively, as the sun is at its height, you shall take pot-luck with us. Regina, place covers for these gentlemen.'

"'Two covers were accordingly placed, and we were thus obliged to partake of the family dinner.

 But

But never did I less enjoy a repast; nor did even frequent bumpers of wine contribute to raise my spirits, though there was an ease and politeness about the old man, that involuntarily inspired me with confidence: and, as if he dived into my inmost thoughts, he took occasion to say—

'I am afraid, Sir, you thought my behaviour this morning rather strange; as certainly the reception I gave you, was not likely to give you a very favourable opinion of my politeness.'

'Sir,' I stammered out, 'one can't always——'

'Forgive me, Sir; but at the moment you knocked at my door,

my

my wife was delivered of our thirteenth child; and your back was scarcely turned, ere she presented me with the finest boy, who my friends say greatly resembles me.'

" This every one present now affirmed, while Michael, giving me a knowing look, seemed to say, you now understand from whom the screams, which had so alarmed us, proceeded. I smiled in return, being fully convinced of the injustice of my late suspicions.

' You must know, gentlemen,' continued Nicolozi (the name of the old man), ' that I have had one of my finest sheep killed in consequence of this increase of my

family, and to-morrow I regale all my friends.'

"Neither Michael nor myself could refrain from laughing, when we reflected upon the terror we had felt, from having accidentally caught a glimpse of the butcher, whom we now supposed to be the man we had seen with the bloody hands through the door. We were therefore extremely angry with the labourer, who we suspected had told us a hundred stories, merely for the pleasure of laughing at us. I now congratulated the venerable Nicolozi upon the birth of his son, adding that he had perfectly accounted for what had certainly

tainly struck me as rather strange behaviour in the morning.

'I would engage you,' said he, pressing my hand, 'to honour our *fête* with your presence, if I was not aware of your impatience to overtake our late guest.'

"Thanking him for his kind intentions, I ordered Michael to bring out our horses. Michael, whose fears had not entirely vanished, was rather averse to leaving me alone with the company, which Nicolozi, doubtless, perceiving, called Vivaldo, and made him a sign, upon which the servant answered—'Yes, Sir,' leaving the room.

" During his absence, I was relating to the old man the accident that had befallen my mother, whom he had so kindly lodged and protected; requesting he would point out those of his servants who had flown to her assistance, as I wished to convince them of my gratitude for their exertions; when a violent clap of thunder made every door and window rattle, and not a little startled me.

' You need be under no apprehensions,' said Nicolozi; ' we are accustomed to this noise. The chain of mountains by which we are surrounded, frequently exposes us to thunder-storms; but I am fearful that the one which seems coming

ing on, will prevent you from pursuing your journey.'

"Indeed the rain soon began to fall in torrents; and the wind which accompanied the thunder and lightning, grew so violent, that it would have been more than imprudent to have braved such a hurricane.

'I am very glad you had not set out,' said Nicolozi, 'for we have a good bed to offer you; and the delay of one night will not prevent you from overtaking the fair traveller – Regina, go and tell Vivaldo, that the gentlemen mean to sleep here, and desire him to take great care of the horses.'

'Yes, Sir.'

" Regina was leaving the room, when he called her back.

' Go, also, and prepare the best room, as this gentleman may wish to lie down, before he retires for the night.'

" I requested he would not treat me ceremoniously. He made me a polite answer, and I considered Nicolozi as one of the politest men in all Italy.

" Our conversation was interrupted by the arrival of three Friars, each loaded with a large wallet.

' Ah ! ah !' said my host.—' What, the storm has driven you hither, my good Fathers ?'

' Yes, Signor Nicolozi,' said the eldest of the three, shaking his

capuchin; 'we are come, like strayed sheep, to take shelter in your fold.'

'Welcome, my good Fathers! So sit down, and drink a bumper."

'Accept our blessing in return, Signor,' drinking a bumper to the conversion of all sinners, a second to St. Francis, and a third to St. Dominic; till I expected every Saint in the calendar would be drank in his turn; when having finished the fourth bottle, one of them, crossing his arms upon his breast, said—

'The Gospel recommends sobriety.—Brothers, do not let us listen to the instigations of the devil.'

'Our passions are strong, and our flesh is weak,' said the youngest.

 "And

"And the last, not to appear less learned than his companions, exclaimed—

'From dust we came, and to dust we shall return.'

"The hypocrisy of these men greatly displeased me; but as I was aware of the little morality to be found among their order in Italy, I was merely sorry that the good Nicolozi should suffer himself to be the dupe of these Monkish libertines; for, notwithstanding what they had said respecting sobriety, they continued to drink till their language became as obscene as it was disgusting.—I wished myself a thousand miles off; but the rain did not abate: and as night was

coming on, I thought it most prudent to remain where I was.

"While the Monks were making the house ring by their repeated shouts of laughter, Michael returned, and gave me to understand, by a sign, that he wished to speak to me. The mirth of the Monks ceased, as if by clock-work; while they all stared at Michael, who, by no means disconcerted, returned them the compliment, in a way that seemed to say—'I suspect you are not good for much, but I don't fear you;' while I requested permission to retire to the apartment that had been prepared for me. Nicolozi rang the bell; when Regina made her

appear-

appearance, and received orders to conduct me to my room.

"The old woman lit a little lamp, requesting us to follow her, which we did to the great satisfaction of the Monks, who did not seem to enjoy our society. We crossed a passage, into which a number of doors opened. The old woman proceeded to open the last, which led into a room most elegantly furnished; and Regina, having lit two wax candles, which stood ready upon the chimney-piece, told us she would let us know when supper was ready, leaving the room, without waiting for an answer.

'Now

'Now we are alone,' said I to Michael, whose serious looks convinced me he was not free from apprehensions, 'you may tell me what you wish to say.'

'Before I do, Sir, permit me to examine every corner of the room. I trust I am not deficient in point of courage; but that ought not to prevent me from being prudent.'

"'He then, with a light in one hand, and a pistol in the other, walked round the room, every now and then feeling the tapestry, and stamping upon the floor, to discover whether it was hollow underneath; when having looked under the bed, he put down the light, and, turning to me, enquired what I thought

thought of the house we were in, and its inhabitants.

'I think we have wronged honest Nicolozi by our suspicions,' I replied. 'As for the Monks who have taken *refuge in his fold*, their manners——'

"Michael interrupted me.

'Manners indeed!—I am convinced they are downright cut-throats; and Nicolozi is no better! Possibly, Sir, you remarked the alteration in their countenances, when I returned into the room?'

'I did.—What then?'

'I had been in the stable, where Vivaldo had gone before me.'

'Well, but what did you see or do in the stable?'

'Nothing,

'Nothing, Sir.'

'Nothing! Why then were you alarmed? Did not you, like me, laugh at the folly of our late fears?—So pray cease to mistrust Nicolozi; and, after all, are we not both armed? Your room is next to mine; so pray what can we have to fear? A night is soon over; to-morrow the weather may be fine, and we may continue our journey.'

'Sir, your security makes me tremble; and I should be tempted to believe you a very great coward, if I was not convinced you know how to defend yourself, should occasion require it.'

" At this moment, there was a knocking at our door. Michael shuddered, and looked at me without moving.

' Shall you or I go to the door?' I asked.

' I, Sir; but seize your pistols; one can't tell——'

" A second knock induced Michael to open the door; and Regina made her appearance.

' Forgive me, gentlemen,' said she; ' I had forgot to place water and napkins in your rooms.'

" So saying, she placed a bottle and bason upon the table, and a napkin of the most dazzling whiteness.

' Thank

'Thank you, good mother; we give you a great deal of trouble.'

'Not at all, gentlemen. Our house is not every day so honoured. *Apropos*, supper will be ready in an hour. Do you wish to join the company below, or to have something sent into your own room?'

'We never sup,' answered Michael, without allowing me time to speak.

'Do you take upon you to answer for your master?' said Regina.

'Sometimes,' said I, in a gay tone. 'But as he has spoke the truth, make my excuses to Signor Nicolozi, and tell him I never take any thing after sunset.'

Regina

Regina made no reply; but having taken a few turns in the room, to see if all was right, she went away, muttering something we could not understand; when Michael, having convinced himself that she was not upon the listen, was going to speak. I interrupted him.

" Are you not now convinced that your silly fears are very ill founded? See how attentive they are to all our wants; though I believe you rather affronted Regina, by taking upon you to answer, when she spoke to me.'

' Have a care, Sir,' said Michael, ' you do not fall into the snare which seems to be preparing for you.

I am

I am convinced that Regina merely made a pretence of bringing in water and towels, that she might have an opportunity of repairing her late negligence; for I saw her, while walking round the room, gently withdraw the key from that closet door, and slide it into her pocket.'

" While Michael was speaking, he put his hand upon the door in question.—One of the panels gave a crack: he turned pale; but rallying his courage, he was going to send in the door with his foot. I prevented him, blaming him very severely for thus giving way to such unjust suspicions; desiring

him,

him, as he valued my favour, to retire to bed. He took one of the lights, and wished me a good night; adding—

'Notwithstanding all you have said, you shall not prevent me from watching over you. My room is next to your's; and if I hear the least noise, I will come, either to defend your life, or to perish in the attempt! Good night, Sir!'

'Good night, Michael!' pressing his hand, as a proof of my forgiveness; and he retired.

" Though I had sent Michael away, it was too early to go to bed. A book was laying upon the table, which I opened. It was the second volume

volume of Grazzini le Lasca's Tales, one of the founders and members of the two celebrated academies in Florence. Sitting myself down, I began to read stories of robbers, horrid murders, dreadful rapes, and other equally pleasing subjects.

"This lecture would quite have deranged Michael's weak imagination, thought I; but as I was tired of reading such nonsense, I flung down the book, as the clock was striking eleven, and was preparing to go to bed, when I heard a sort of hammering noise at a distance. Endeavouring to guess from whence it proceeded, I listened very attentively. It soon ceased. Ac-

cusing myself, therefore, of pusillanimity, I flung myself upon the bed, without extinguishing my light; and should probably soon have fallen asleep, if the same noise had not again disturbed me, which I now fancied proceeded from the stable.

"Thinking it possible that one of our horses might have got his leg over his halter, I rose, resolving to call Michael, whom I proposed to send into the stable; but as I opened my door, in stepping out, I stumbled against one of the Monks whom Nicolozi had so kindly received. This unexpected meeting made me retreat with astonishment.

'Pray what do you do here at this time of night?' said I.

'I am returning to my chamber,' he replied, rushing forwards so speedily, I was not able to stop him.

"His unexpected appearance, added to the noise I had just heard, induced me to think Michael's late fears were not absolutely ill founded.

"I called Michael. No one answered. His door was open. I entered his room, but saw no Michael.

'I am betrayed!' said I to myself. 'The monster has enticed me hither, merely to deliver me into the hands of these rascals,

with whom he is doubtless in league!'

"How unjust were my suspicions!—as Michael, whose fears were but too well founded—the generous Michael had not felt at all inclined to sleep, having resolved to watch, as he had promised, over the safety of his too credulous master. Yes, I accused him of having betrayed me; and I was returning into my own room, to seize my arms, meaning to sell my life dearly, when the honest fellow came running towards me.

'Let us fly this moment, my dear master, or we shall inevitably perish!—Nicolozi, Vivaldo, the old

Regina,

Regina, and those hypocritical Monks, are all—all downright murderers!'

'What is it you say?'

'The truth! My hair stands an end! Indeed the horrid vision I have seen, is still before my eyes!'

'What vision?'

'A mangled corpse!—For Heaven's sake, let us seek our safety in flight!'

"Though I rather participated in his terror, I made him precede me into my room; when, having seized my pistols, and barred the door, I ordered him to relate when and where he had seen the horrid sight he mentioned.

 'Listen,

'Listen, Sir, and tremble! It was striking eleven o'clock, and all appeared quiet, when—Heavens!—yes, it certainly was the work of Heaven——'

'Pray shorten your story.'

'Well, Sir, I heard our horses pawing the ground; and wishing to know what induced them to make this noise, I endeavoured to find my way into the yard. All the doors were shut. What could I do?—when, opening one of the windows in the passage, by means of my sheet, I easily slid to the ground. Away I ran to the stable, where I perceived your horse, his mane standing erect, and apparently in an agony of terror, having with

with his foot removed the earth. A hand was visible; and, upon a nearer approach, the whole arm of a dead corpse struck my eyes! My blood ran cold at the horrid sight! But in hopes of being still in time to save you, I returned in search of you; and, believe me, we have not a moment to lose: but before we go, do let us examine that closet. Regina would not have withdrawn the key, had she not been fearful of our seeing its contents; probably an assassin is concealed within: let me at least know what we have to fear.'

"Michael's recital had astonished me so much, that I was unable to

to speak; so, taking my silence for consent, he knocked in the door at a single blow.

"How I retained my senses when I perceived what the closet contained, Heaven only knows!—for this vilest of men, the infamous Nicolozi, had first murdered, and then concealed in the apartment destined for her son——

"Spare me any further details, my beloved father; suffice it to say, I was but too fatally convinced that the inanimate corpse before me, was that of my unfortunate mother; when a noise behind us induced us to turn our heads, and we perceived a part of the ceiling over

the

the bed's head give way, and an enormous stone was at the same moment let down, meant, doubtless, to crush the unconscious victim, whom Nicolozi presumed was buried in a profound sleep.

"Having miraculously escaped so unforeseen a danger, I returned my thanks where they were most due, and then, extinguishing the light, I seized Michael by the hand, and drew him after me into the passage, desiring him to lead the way to the window, where he yet hoped to find a ladder which he had placed there, being unable to ascend by the same means he had got down.

"We were fortunate enough to reach the window unperceived, and

 were

were still more rejoiced to find the ladder there. Down we rushed; Michael was already upon the ground, and I was close behind him, when a voice, which I discovered to be that of Nicolozi, called out—'Who goes there?' I answered, disguising my voice—'A friend!'—The traitor drew near.

'Have you done for him?'

'No, rascal!' I furiously exclaimed. 'You shall precede us to the grave!' blowing his brains out as I spoke.

"A whistle succeeded the report of my pistol. Twenty more answered the first.

'This

'This is the time, Michael,' said I, 'to display our courage! The Chief of the wretched band is no more: surely we shall be able to master the others!'

'Depend upon my doing my best, Sir!'

"Hardly had he spoke these words, ere Vivaldo seized him by the throat. My second pistol laid him by the side of his master. The three Monks now appeared, armed with carbines, and a terrible battle ensued; but two of them having bit the dust, the third escaped into the house, and gave the signal for the band of wretches whom we had seen at prayers, to fall upon us. Flight alone was now

our only resource; but no issue by which we could make our escape, could we find, when suddenly the noise of arms from without, struck terror into the hearts of the murderous band, and the words—'Surround the house!—Force all the doors!' increased their terror to such a degree, that they eagerly sought a refuge in the various buildings which surrounded the court.

"Meanwhile the great gates were forced open by a crowd of soldiers, at the head of whom I recognised my friend Dierkmann.

'Ah, my friend!' I exclaimed, "but for your timely arrival, I should have

have been a dead man! Let us pursue these wretches, and not allow them to rally their forces!'

"No sooner said, than done! While we were thus employed in the interior of the house, the soldiers who remained without, were engaged with another band of robbers, of whose arrival we had not been aware, and who hoped by this means to facilitate the flight of their companions. The number of these robbers was so considerable, that we were obliged to come to the assistance of our brave fellows, setting fire to the house as we made our retreat.

"Victory now soon declared on our side.

"Meanwhile the prudent Michael had led our horses to a distance, which he was returning to tell me, when a dreadful event, which none of us had foreseen, caused his almost immediate death!

"It may be remembered that the third Monk had escaped into the house during the beginning of the engagement, and there he had remained concealed, till he found on whose side victory had declared, when he basely resolved to revenge the death of his companions: he therefore appeared at one of the windows, enveloped in a cloud of smoke, exclaiming—

'Base satellites of a tyrannical Prince, tremble! since these walls

are

are ready to fall upon your devoted heads, to revenge the death of those you have so vilely murdered!' and before we could guess his meaning, the whole building blew up.

"I was knocked down by the explosion, and did not recover my senses till the next day, when I found myself in bed, surrounded by surgeons who had been dressing a slight wound I had received in my right arm.

"The sight of Major Dierkmann recalled to my recollection the dreadful event of the night before. The excess of my own grief made me resolve to keep you for some time in ignorance of my mother's death, as I thought you

ought to be prepared by degrees, to receive the dreadful intelligence. I therefore wrote you the letter which you received at Ferrara; and the generous Dierkmann seconding my intentions, threw up his commission, that he might be able to attend you hither, while I remained in Italy to pay the last duty to my unfortunate mother. That done, I requested the Emperor to allow me to dispose of my commission, and then set sail for this island, where I arrived unknown to you; and having concerted with the Major respecting what means we ought to pursue to break the melancholy intelligence I had to communicate

to

to you, we had recourse to Hassanos, who, under pretence of telling you your fortune, prepared you to listen to this dreadful detail.

"I can now only hope, for my sake, you will endeavour to bear up against your misfortunes; for it would be as vain as it would be impious, to murmur against those decrees we mortals can neither foresee nor prevent."

CHAP. VIII.

WHAT is death, but the termination of our troubles in this world? Dearest Adele! an invisible hand has broken the tie which had so long united us to each other! You are at least at rest, while I exist, merely to grieve for my irreparable loss.—But even sorrow of this nature has its bounds: and should I any

any longer give way to those useless murmurs, with which I have for some time tired my friends, they will soon cease to pity, or to regard me with an eye of affection.

Such were my reflections after listening to the sorrowful details recited in the last chapter; and, by way of diverting my melancholy, Hassanos advised me to study botany. He was perfectly master of the science, and could descant for hours upon the virtues of the Barba-Jovis, those of the Sweet Marjoram, &c.

For some time I studied under him, till Hassanos advised me to make the tour of the island, in order

to collect the rarest plants with which it abounded.

Towards the Forest of Platania, which was situated about two leagues beyond the City of Candia, the capital of the island, I first bent my steps; but not relishing the neighbourhood of the Turks, I resolved to extend my travels, having been told that some descendants of the ancient Cretans, notwithstanding the insolent despotism of the Turks, had still preserved their independence; and who, like the savages of North America, preferred living in impenetrable forests, and upon inaccessible mountains, to mixing with their conquerors.

The

The Turks, who still feared them, described them as absolute man-eaters; but Hassanos assured me I had nothing of that kind to fear from them, giving me at the same time a small piece of ebony, upon which various hieroglyphic characters were engraved, which he assured me would be the best letter of recommendation I could present to these ancient Cretans.

A severe fit of the rheumatism confined Major Dierkmann to his own room. I therefore requested my son would accompany me in my proposed expedition; and having made the necessary preparations for our journey, attended by Zanti, we directed our steps towards the

high

high mountains which separate the northern from the southern side of the Island of Candia.

Young, the celebrated English poet, could alone have described the sublime prospects we had so often occasion to admire.

At the expiration of three days we reached a village inhabited by the Cretans; though the few cottages which we perceived, induced us to believe that they had greatly diminished in point of numbers, till we found that many of them resided in grottoes, or in tents; and not wishing to trespass upon their hospitality, we took up our abode under the shade of a friendly rock, and the following morning began to

collect

collect plants in the environs, when a beautiful girl drew near, apparently with the same intention.

Charles unthinkingly exclaimed— "How handsome she is!"

The sound of his voice alarmed her so much, that she ran from us with the speed of a fawn. Charles pursued her steps, requesting her, in the language of the country, not to be alarmed. I also approached, displaying the piece of ebony Hassanos had given me; the sight of which induced her instantly to stop.

"Iska is no longer afraid," said she; "for you are certainly not the enemies of the great Theostos."

I presumed that Theostos was the name of some Cretan Chief, or the Divinity which these Islanders worshipped.

"No, beautiful Iska," said I, "we are, on the contrary, ready to devote ourselves to the service of yourself and the great Theostos."

Iska smiled, and offered to conduct us to her father's cottage, who was old and infirm, she said, but would, nevertheless, make us welcome. Kissing her beautiful hand, we accepted the invitation, and slowly followed our amiable conductress, who, lowering her voice as we approached the old man's cottage, said—

"Let

"Let us make no noise, gentle strangers; possibly my father sleeps," going in before us to ascertain the truth of her conjecture; but soon returning, she introduced us to the old Cretan, who was lying upon several sheep-skins. He, however, made an effort to rise when we appeared; but I prevented him by seating myself near him, enquiring into the nature of the illness he was labouring under.

"I have no reason to complain," said he. "Iska has taken such great care of me, that I no longer remember my past sufferings."

Iska kissed his forehead, and then

covered

covered a table at the entrance of the cottage, with fruits and milk.

Charles was delighted with her attention, and seemed to wish to take up his future residence among these almost inaccessible mountains, so charmed was he with the fair Cretan. But he soon learned that the heart of Iska was no longer at her own disposal, and that the ensuing spring was to witness her union with a lover of her own nation; for while we were returning her our thanks, for the kind reception she had given us, we heard a shepherd's pipe at a distance, and, in a few minutes a young Cretan appeared,

who laid at the feet of Iska, the game which he had been killing.

The lovers then, regardless of our presence, tenderly embraced each other, and gave way to the joy natural upon such occasions. I paid them what I endeavoured to render acceptable compliments. Charles tried to follow my example; but merely stammered out a few words, requesting me to retire: for he was convinced we were considered as intruders.

"You are in a great hurry," said Iska; "believe me you have nothing to apprehend from Kirstan," pointing to the Cretan.—"Kirstán is incapable of hurting those

who are not enemies to the great Theostos."

Kirstan, as if resolved to deserve her praises, offered us part of his game, and to shew us whatever was worthy notice in that part of the country.

Had I been alone, I certainly should have acceded to his proposals; but, aware of the impression the beautiful Iska had made upon Charles, I thought it most prudent to hasten our departure. Not chusing, however, to leave these amiable islanders, without making them some return for their politeness towards us, I presented the old man with a bottle of Cyprus wine, who

who gave me his blessing in return, requesting us to pay him another visit, since Kirstan would watch over us, and prevent our meeting with any of those accidents, to which our ignorance of the country might expose us.

At last we bent our steps towards the rock, where we had left Zanti. Charles seemed buried in thought, and I did not chuse to interrupt his reverie; till, finding he preserved an obstinate silence, I asked him some questions, which induced him to acknowledge that he adored Iska, and that all his hopes of future happiness rested upon being united to her.

"You don't reflect, my dear Charles, upon what you are saying. Iska is evidently upon the point of marriage."

"Yes, to a Cretan—a wretch, scarcely a degree above a savage!"

"Since she loves him, he has probably some amiable qualities; at all events, let me advise you to try to forget the too lovely girl."

"To forget her," replied Charles, "is impossible!"

"What then are your intentions?"

"To make my love known to her."

"Honour, on the contrary, ought to induce you to conceal it even from me; and, should you give way to what I shall consider as

a degree

a degree of insanity, I will abandon this country for ever, that I may not be the sorrowful witness of your dereliction from virtue."

Charles fell at my feet, declaring he would sooner die, than render himself unworthy of my affections. I pressed him in my arms, and, proud of the victory I fancied I had obtained, I endeavoured to talk of any thing but Iska and Kirstan; but it seemed to have been decreed that I was never to enjoy a moment's peace: for, having reached our rock, we missed Zanti; and the mule, which Dierkmann had loaded with our baggage and provisions, had also disappeared. We began to suspect the fidelity of our servant,

 when,

when, in looking round, we perceived a hat at some distance, which we knew to be his; and a little farther on, we found one of the panniers with which the mule had been loaded. Having also perceived here and there a few spots of blood, we began to be seriously alarmed for the fate of Zanti; for in vain we repeatedly called him: —we therefore resolved to cross the mountain in various directions, in hopes of discovering what had befallen him.

We formed this resolution without reflecting that, being also unarmed, we might expose our own lives, without being of any material service to him; and the report of

fire-

fire arms at some distance, greatly increased our terror, and induced us to fear that the Cretans were neither so gentle nor so humane as Hassanos had endeavoured to make us believe. Hardly knowing what to do, after a short deliberation, we resolved to return to Dierkmann's, where we might obtain a reinforcement to our party, with whom we could pursue our search after Zanti.

In consequence, we returned home, where I still hoped to find my valet; but he had not made his appearance, and it was now naturally feared that he had fallen into the hands of the Turks. I therefore resolved to effect his deliverance,

 could

could it be done with any degree of safety.

Dierkmann approved of my intentions; and Charles, who had formed other projects, proposed our dividing into two parties, which might facilitate our researches. His advice was followed. Ten sailors, well armed, marched under his orders, while several of the Major's servants, and a few soldiers, accompanied me. We were to meet, after a given time, at the spot from whence we had missed Zanti.

Two days did we traverse these almost inaccessible mountains, without making any discoveries respecting Zanti, when the excessive heat, and the weight of the air, induced me

to

to fear we should be overtaken by a dreadful storm, while at a distance from any immediate shelter. Nor was I mistaken; for the thunder soon rolled in awful majesty, and the lightning struck several trees before we could reach the rock where we hoped to find Charles: but neither my son nor any of his companions could we see when we arrived there.

Having seen my little party safely sheltered, I was imprudent enough to continue my journey alone, proposing to pay Iska another visit. Fatigued as I already was, it was little short of madness, I must acknowledge, to set out late in the evening, for a place with

which I was but very imperfectly acquainted, and the increasing storm rendered me but too sensible of my folly; yet I could not resolve to return, for, during the flashes of lightning, I now and then caught a glimpse of the old Cretan's cottage.

I called—"Iska!—Kirstan!" but received no answer; though I heard a faint murmur at a distance. I stopped to listen, but no longer heard any thing, except the rolling of the thunder.

While I was thus standing, it was with difficulty I kept my feet, so high was the wind; and, at the same moment, one of the natural cascades, which in various places

embellish

embellish the scene, breaking its bounds, would have hurried me into the valley below, if a strong arm had not suddenly laid hold of me, and removed me from my dangerous situation.

My increasing weakness prevented me from recollecting the person who had thus kindly saved my life; but, upon recovering my senses, I perceived a multitude of Cretans, armed with burning torches, surrounding the cottage of Iska, while she herself, to all appearance dying, was in the arms of my son, whose countenance expressed such shame and despair, that I was convinced he had had it in contemplation to remove her from her household gods.

The youthful Kirstan, to whom I was indebted for my life, having already removed me to a place of safety, flew to revenge the wrongs of the injured Iska.

"Wretch!" cried he, "while I was saving thy father's life, thou wert robbing me of what is far dearer to me than my own!"

The generous Iska stopped his arm.

"Friend," said she, pointing to me, "don't shed the blood of his son, for our old friend is certainly free from blame."

Charles, overcome by such generous behaviour, could no longer raise his eyes; and approaching him with feeble steps, I said—

"Am

"Am I only restored to life, my son, to be a witness of your weakness and of your culpable conduct?"

"Beloved father, dearest Iska, and thou generous Kirstan, I find it impossible to express the repentance I feel for my late unwarrantable action. My life is in thy hands, brave Kirstan; revenge yourself, for I am ready to declare it will only be doing me justice."

Flinging away his dagger, Kirstan rushed into my arms, while Iska assured him she had already consigned his criminal attempt to oblivion.

"Dearest Iska," said I, "how can we ever repay you?"

"Very easily," said she, interrupting me; "I merely wish you would tell our enemies, the Turks, that the Cretans have the most humanity."

However, let us leave these virtuous Cretans;—one ought to have been born among them, to have been thoroughly sensible of their excellence.—Worthy Cretans! nature is your social contract; never envy us either our riches or our talents, for you would very soon cease to deserve our praises.

Early the next morning, we set out on our return to Candia. Before we parted from Kirstan, I gave him an excellent fowling-piece; and

and as hunting was his chief occupation, he readily accepted my present, promising me never to make use of it, but to bring down the game with which their mountains abounded.

I had resolved not to go through the town of Candia, though it would have considerably shortened our journey; but a very unforeseen event obliged me to alter my resolution: for as we were turning out of the great road leading thither, I remarked a crowd of Turks, who were entering the gates in the most tumultuous manner. Desiring our people to stop, I advanced with Charles,

wishing

wishing to know what this apparent riot meant; but my indignation equalled my surprise, when, in the middle of this crowd of Mahometans, we perceived Zanti, bound hand and foot, whom they were not only abusing, but striking with heavy whips, every two or three minutes.

I enquired of an old woman, what crime this unfortunate wretch had committed. She informed me that he had insulted a body of Mahometans while they were at prayers, and that the law condemned him either to lose his head, or to receive five hundred strokes upon the soles of his feet.

"There-

"Therefore," she added, "take care how you follow his example."

Without making her any answer, being convinced that Zanti had not acted so imprudently as she had said, I flew to the Cadi's, before whom he was being taken, where I claimed my servant. The Cadi told me he could not take upon himself to give me any answer before he had heard what the accused, and those who accused him, had to say.

Zanti soon made his appearance, more dead than alive; but having recognised me, he assured me, upon his honour, that he was as innocent as the child unborn, and that his accusers were a band of robbers,

who,

who, not contented with having seized the mule, and every thing he had about him, had, to prevent his impeaching them, dragged him into the town, where, in the presence of the populace, they had accused him of a crime, of which they knew he was not guilty.

This declaration proved of no avail; for ten people swore that Zanti had added perjury to his other crime. The Cadi therefore condemned him to receive five hundred strokes with a cane upon the soles of his feet, or to become a Mahometan, by way of expiating his sins in the eyes of the Prophet.

Shocked at this unjust sentence, I sent for the French Consul; but, conscious

conscious that his presence would prove of no more avail than Zanti's defence had been, he did not even wait upon the Judge. I was therefore obliged to exhort the unfortunate Zanti to assume the turban.

Thus, therefore, was the poor wretch, after having been robbed and beaten by the Mahometans, obliged to become a Mahometan to save his head; while the Cadi, delighted at having thus made a proselyte, strongly recommended him to the protection of his holy Prophet, promising him a distinguished place in the voluptuous paradise his followers hope to enjoy when they die.

Zanti was carried in triumph round the town, and was then placed under the tuition of the Chief Iman, who undertook to instruct him in the tenets of the Alcoran.

CHAP.

CHAP. IX.

MY attempt to herborise had cost me so dear, that I soon gave up studying botany, when, for the want of something to do, I took it into my head to visit an English merchant, who resided in the City of Candia, at whose house I stumbled upon the Morning Post. So many years had elapsed since I had

had any correspondence with my own family, that I eagerly seized this newspaper, when the following advertisement caught my attention.

"*Heirs, or next of Kin.*

"The heirs, or next of kin, of Sir James Bolding, merchant, who lately died in Philadelphia, are requested to call at Mr. Derrford's, No. 42, Piccadilly, where they will hear of something greatly to their advantage."

"Nothing

"Nothing could have happened more *apropos*," said I; "since there may be some millions to receive, and I shall have the satisfaction of leaving my son a handsome fortune."

Having returned to Major Dierkmann's, I told Charles what I had learned; and as he was heartily tired of Candia, we resolved to set out without delay for London: and our departure was greatly accelerated by the death of Major Dierkmann, who had had a stroke of the palsy, which, as Hassanos had justly prognosticated, terminated his existence. He expired in our arms, calling down blessings upon our

heads,

heads, he having retained his senses till the last moment.

If ever man deserved to be regretted, it was Major Dierkmann. Generous and courageous, he was both a good soldier and a great General; in short, he possessed every quality necessary to form a hero. When he hung my herald, he thought it necessary, in order to frighten a body of rebels; and though obliged, from his earliest youth, to wage war against his fellow-creatures, no man was more anxious to repair the evils that he could not prevent. Beloved Dierkmann, thy virtues and thy benevolence will ever live in my remembrance!

Having

Having paid the last duties to our respectable friend, we resolved to set sail for Marseilles. Hassanos took leave of us at the moment of embarkation; and once more did I trust myself to the mercy of the winds and waves.

Having performed a tiresome quarantine, we landed at Marseilles, where the serene sky and pure air formed a striking contrast to the dirty stinking streets; nevertheless, I admired the beautiful walks, and the superb bason of which this town so justly boats: but being anxious to reach London, we soon set out for Paris, and, after a pleasant journey, we reached the magnificent capital of France,

which certainly can boast of many advantages:—the Thuilleries, the Pantheon, the various public institutions, not to mention the hospitals, are all deserving of admiration.

But let it be remembered that Rome was once the mistress of the world, and that Athens was once the center of the fineArts, and the native place of the greatest philosophers; yet ancient Rome is no more, and but for a few ruins, it would be hardly known where Athens stood. Possibly, therefore, a sentimental traveller may, some centuries hence, exclaim, while walking upon the solitary banks of the

the Seine—"Here once stood Paris!"

Having seen every thing worthy of notice, we resolved to proceed to Calais, on our way to England. Our carriage was waiting in the court of the hotel, and we were preparing to go down the stairs, when a woman pale, her hair in disorder, hardly knowing what she did, rushed into our apartment, requesting we would afford her our protection.

"Protect me, I entreat, gentlemen!" looking about in search of a hiding-place.

"Against whom, Madam?"

"The monster in pursuit of me!"

"Believe me, you have nothing to fear; no one will dare to——"

At this moment, a young man, with a sword in his hand, darted forwards, exclaiming—

"Yes, I dare!

The irritated Charles placed himself before the terrified female, exclaiming—

"Defend yourself!" and scarcely had he spoke, before he laid him dead at his feet.

Having been a witness of the action, I could not blame my son for what he had done; still we were in rather a critical situation, and to add to our perplexity, the lady fainted. But having soon recovered her, I said—

"Come

"'Come along, Madam!" dragging her out of the room, in which the rencontre had taken place, "and remember that our lives depend upon your discretion."

So saying, down we went; and having already settled with our host, we got into our carriage, and left Paris.

As soon as we got off the stones, I asked the young lady how she found herself. Much better, she assured me; when, after a short silence, she exclaimed—

"Oh, mercy!—what will become of me?"

"Deign to inform me, Mademoiselle, how I best can serve you."

"I am unworthy of your kind offers, Sir."

"You merely render me more zealous in your cause."

"Would it be indiscreet, Sir, to enquire whither you are going?"

"To Calais, and from thence to London; but we shall consider it as our duty to convey you wherever you may wish to go."

At this moment, two soldiers of the Maréchaussée passed the carriage. She gave a violent scream.

"What has alarmed you, Mademoiselle?" I enquired.

"I was fearful, Sir, that those soldiers were going to stop the carriage; for you have certainly exposed your lives in my defence."

"My

"My son did no more than his duty, and we were anxious to leave Paris, to avoid falling into the hands of the magistrates; though no one could have condemned us, when acquainted with every circumstance. Are you of Paris, Mademoiselle?"

"No, Sir. My father inhabits a village in these environs, and I, miserable wretch! am unworthy of his affections; for I despised his advice, and set his authority at defiance. A vile seducer rendered me deaf to every thing, but the voice of love!

"But it may be necessary that you should know rather more about me.

"My father, as I have already told you, resides in the country; and a young man of the most elegant appearance, some time since, became our neighbour. Frequently did he walk under our windows, and no doubt he soon remarked the preference with which I regarded him;—he therefore wrote me a letter, in which he declared his love for me. I made him no answer, and always walked from the windows whenever I saw him advancing.

Nevertheless, scarcely a day elapsed without my receiving one or more letters from him, when, in a fatal moment, I agreed to see him; and the next morning left my father's home in his company.

"We

"We took up our abode at the same hotel where you resided. Fritzer spent his money like a Prince."

At this moment the carriage stopped to change horses, and the young lady enquired where we were.

Not knowing the name of the place, I asked the postillions, who told us we were at Ecouen.

"At Ecouen!" she exclaimed, turning as pale as death. But, soon recovering herself, she requested to alight. I handed her out of the carriage, and led her into the inn, ordering the innkeeper to keep a watchful eye over her; when, to my great astonishment, he enquired if I was bringing her home.

home. I told him that I was merely indebted to chance for our being together; for I was totally unacquainted with her family.

"Oh, Sir, you will render her father the happiest of men; for he has been an absolute prey to despair ever since her departure."

"You are then acquainted with her?"

"Who is not, Sir?—She was beloved by the whole village before she suffered a vile seducer to persuade her to leave her father's house."

"What, pray, is her name?"

"Mademoiselle Bathilde de St. Leon; and her father resides at that handsome house you see from hence."

"Then

"Then I will pay him an immediate visit. Do you watch over Mademoiselle Bathilde, for I will not leave Ecouen till I have reconciled her to her father."

"M. St. Leon will easily be induced to forgive her, he is so good a man; so pray make haste, my dear Sir, for I am sure he will rejoice to see you."

I was leaving the post-house in consequence of what he had said, when I perceived an old man advancing towards me, bathed in tears, and whose countenance expressed a mixture of joy and sorrow. By his side was a tall young man, who did not appear to participate in the old man's feelings.

"That is M. St. Leon," said the postmaster.

Advancing towards him—"Sir," said I, "I have brought you back your daughter."

"Have you also brought back her perfidious seducer?" enquired the young man, giving Charles, as he stood rather in the background, an angry look.

"Sir," said I, "the tone in which you interrogate me, would induce me to suspect——"

"That I am resolved to revenge the wrongs of this respectable father!" drawing his sword, and advancing towards Charles.

"Sir," said I, stopping his arm, "before you thus give way to rage,

rage, you ought to be convinced that he whom you wish to punish, is before your eyes. Now it so happens that he has already ceased to exist;" briefly relating to M. St. Leon the adventure which had occurred previous to our departure from Paris; dwelling, in the strongest terms, upon the remorse and repentance his daughter had evinced during our journey.

M. St. Leon embraced me, shedding tears of gratitude; and the young stranger requested we would excuse his late behaviour, returning with us to the inn, at the door of which we were met by the two soldiers, who, it may be remembered, had passed the carriage,

and who enquired which of us was the owner of the equipage then standing in the yard.

"It belongs to me, gentlemen," said I.

"Your name, Sir?"

"Is Bolding," said I.

"Did you not leave the Hotel d'Angleterre this morning?"

"I did."

"You had a young lady in the carriage with you?"

"She is here."

"In the King's name, I arrest you.

"As we can have nothing to dread; only order the horses to be put to the carriage, and we will readily accompany you to Paris."

One

One of the soldiers perceiving the alarm of M. St. Leon, assured him that we should run no risk in returning to Paris; for we were merely requested to explain why Fritzer had fallen by our hands, as we had only been saving the executioner trouble. We requested a farther explanation, when he told us that the rascal was a coiner, for whom the Police had long been upon the look-out; which so well agreed with what Mademoiselle St. Leon had said of the prodigality of her lover, that I no longer felt any apprehension respecting the consequence of this strange adventure.

While the chaise was getting ready, we all proceeded to the apartment, where we expected to find Mademoiselle Bathilde, but no one was there to be seen;—we called her, but received no answer. In vain we sought her in every corner; at last we perceived the window was open, and a letter was placed upon a table near it, which having opened, I read as follows.—It ought to have been observed that it was directed to—"*The generous Stranger who conducted me hither.*"

"Sir,

"Sir,

"As I have long considered death preferable to living dishonoured, you may guess why I have made my escape; but before I proceed to any further extremities, suffer me to enter into a farther explanation respecting my name and family;" (repeating what I had already learned from the innkeeper: after which she thus proceeded.)

"I have already told you that my seducer maintained the style of a Prince; and this morning he took it into his head to inform me by what means he was enabled to support his extravagance.

'Bathilde,"

'Bathilde,' said he, while placing several rouleaus of gold in his bureau, 'have you any thing to wish for?'

'You don't allow me time to explain my wants,' I replied. 'Indeed your fortune seems so large——'

'And I hope greatly to increase it, Bathilde,' he interrupted; 'for in another week, I expect to be the richest man in all France. But you must prepare yourself for a long journey, as I don't mean to fix our residence here.'

'Yet where can we be more pleasantly situated than in Paris?'

'You are in the right, my dear Bathilde; but to let you into a little

secret,

secret, we can't remain here much longer in safety.'

'You alarm me!'

'Do you love me sufficiently not to betray me, should I let you know from what source I derive my riches?'

'Can you ask me such a question?—Is it not to my interest to keep your secrets?—I might, were I to remain in ignorance, be guilty of some imprudence, which might be prejudical to your concerns; therefore I trust you will no longer hesitate to gratify my natural curiosity.'

'You delight me, my dear Bathilde; you must know, there-

fore, that I am at the head of a band of coiners.'

'Monster!' I exclaimed, 'is such your horrid trade?—To what a wretched state am I reduced!'

'What language is this!' said he.

'It is that of the woman whom you have deceived, ruined, and undone!—But go, wretch! for never will I become your accomplice!'

"While speaking, I endeavoured to leave the room.—Fritzer placed himself in the door-way.

'Rascal!' said I, 'if you oppose my flight, I will assemble every inhabitant of the hotel by my screams, and to them will I reveal your crimes, that you may be immediately

mediately brought to that end you have so long deserved!'

'Tremble, vile woman!'

'Tremble for yourself, wretch that you are! and suffer me to leave you!'

"The traitor rushed forwards.—I gave a violent scream. In a transport of rage, he seized his sword, while I flew into your room, to request your protection. I need not add that Fritzer pursued me, and fell a sacrifice to your just indignation.

"With you I left Paris, scarcely knowing whither I was going, till I found myself once more at Ecouen, near which runs a little

river,

river, in which I am resolved to bury all my faults, my wrongs, and myself!

"BATHILDE ST. LEON."

Before I could cease reading, Charles, the innkeeper, and the young stranger, had all flown towards the river, in hopes of preserving the life of the wretched Bathilde; but vain was their zeal—vain their attempts to restore to life the now inanimate corpse of the unfortunate Bathilde!—The despair of M. St. Leon may be better imagined than described.

Mean-

Meanwhile, the Judge of the village joined us, to receive my deposition respecting Fritzer, and of course increased the crowd and confusion.

I was, nevertheless, obliged to return to Paris; but having found no difficulty in convincing the magistrates of our innocence, we were permitted to resume our journey; and it may be supposed that we did not pass through Ecouen without calling upon M. St. Leon, whom we found in the greatest despair, notwithstanding the consoling attentions of his youngest daughter, Eliza.

Being in haste, I made him but a short visit; and having reached

Calais in safety, we immediately embarked for Dover, from whence we proceeded, without stopping, to London; and, as the heir of Sir James Bolding, I waited upon Mr. Derrford, from whom, having made myself throughly known, and very satisfactorily accounted for my having left England, I received a hundred thousand pounds, in quality of heir to my mother's husband.

With so brilliant a fortune, I conceived that Charles might aspire to the hand of the first woman in either France or England; but Charles gave me fully to understand that he had already made his choice, and that he was resolved to marry the sister of the unfortunate Bathilde.

"How!"

"How!" said I.—"You have hardly seen her."

"I have seen enough of her to adore her," he replied.

"Your's may be truly deemed love at first sight; such as one only meets with in Novels."

CONCLUSION,

BY CHARLES BOLDING.

MY father has just paid the debt of nature.

"Charles," said he, when dying, I ought to leave behind me a detail of the vicissitudes I have undergone. In my bureau you will find the history of my life, since your

your birth. Publish it as you will find it; for I should not chuse to be indebted even to you for my celebrity as an author."

I have punctually conformed to my father's wishes; and shall now conclude with giving you, gentle readers, some insight into my present situation.

Three months after my father's death, I returned to France, and hastened to pay my respects to M. St. Leon. He had preceded my father to the grave. His house had been sold, and the young Eliza had sought a retreat in the Ursuline Nunnery at Paris. Thither I hastened to request she would accept of my heart, my hand, and my